

# Director's Notes

## Happy Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day lends itself to expressions of love through words, drawings and gifts. We ask parents to celebrate with valentine cards and not include food items. Love for each other and each child is abundant at Zion ECEC.



## 6 Reasons Your Child Should Learn Engineering

1. **Narrative Concept:** Students should examine real world problem. The goal is to build the student's empathy for someone and give them the confidence that they can be involved in solving problems.
2. **Engineering design process:** For early education, this is three steps: explore, create, improve. Students should be allowed to ask questions create and try as many ideas as possible.
3. **Exploring materials and methods:** Children love to touch, squish and test the properties of different items. They can also talk about different ways to use materials.
4. **Analysis of data and redesign:** it's important to check in with a young learner. What are their thoughts and did it solve the problem? Why? or why not? Children practice critically thinking about their own work.
5. **Collaboration:** Learning how to communicate their ideas to each other and work together towards a shared goal.
6. **Agency:** Young learners are most invested in a lesson if their actions directly impact the outcome.

Learning through attempts and failures is one of the greatest teaching tools of engineering. Also, moving the children away from one "right" answer and allowing multiple solutions.

Portions taken from eSchool News by Stacy Pusey

February 2024

Zion Lutheran ECEC

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### Upcoming Dates:

- ☉ February 13th- Chapel
- ☉ February 14th—Valentine's Day
- ☉ February 19—No School Presidents' Day

The full School Calendar can be found on our school website.

<http://www.zionhinsdale.org>  
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Facebook: [facebook.com/zionECECHinsdale](https://www.facebook.com/zionECECHinsdale)

Instagram: [Instagram.com/zionecechinsdale](https://www.instagram.com/zionecechinsdale)

"This is the day  
the Lord has made"  
Psalm 118:24



## Helping Children Build Friendships

Many children seem to attract friends like magnets. They seem to always be surrounded by other boys and girls and never have a problem finding someone to play with. For others, making and keeping friends comes with a little effort. What can we do to support our children's efforts in friendship building?

Children's social skills develop in predictable stages. At first children are not really interested in friends although they may play side by side. Next, they will likely interact only when they see another child with something they want. Then, children begin to make friends and cooperate in play as four and five year old's. Friendships become very important to the kindergarten and the primary age child.

Not all children are eager to have lots of friends. Even though they may enjoy certain aspects of spending time with other children, they sometimes prefer to play alone or with a few select friends.

Social skills can be taught! Adults need to help a child understand how their actions are viewed by other children. This takes patience and problem solving routines.

Another way to help is to give your child opportunities to be with other children his or her own age in your home. Help him or her succeed at one or two friends at a time. Plan ahead with your child some of the activities and toys they might enjoy together.

Read books together about how friends act towards one another. Sometimes a child can workout problems with friends by reading about others who have problems with friends and found a way to solve them. Children learn appropriate social behaviors best by observing how significant adults in their lives interact with others. Think about how you talk and interact with others.

Portions taken from "Parent Connection" by Karien Klein

"The mission of Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center is to open the door to a lifetime of learning in a Christ-centered community."

Enrollment for 2024-2025 school year is open. If you have any friends who are looking into preschools, pass along a good word of mouth for Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center. Thanks!