

Director's Notes

Entering the World of Words

Print surrounds us. In our homes we have mail, newspapers, magazines, books and various boxes and cans of food. We drive down the highway, we encounter traffic signs, billboards and signs that identify stores. At the grocery store we see advertising and logos.

Children begin to make sense of this print in their environment very early in life. Any parent who has driven down the street and hears a toddler cry out, "French Fries" or "Stop Mommy" knows that a child is finding meaning in that big M that signals a certain fast food restaurant.

Children often recognize the name of the grocery store or drug store where they go with their parents to shop. When children's attention is called to the logo and the name of the store is shown to them, they are likely to remember it.

The same is true of a child's favorite foods. Toddlers can tell Fruit Loops from Cheerios. Initially, children use the logo for clues as to what the words say: they, for instance, will occasionally "read" the word *Crest* as toothpaste. This is normal when children are first learning to make sense of the print they see.

Parents can begin making children aware of environmental print very early on. In doing so, They help their children establish important reading skills.

Family friendly Communication for Early childhood Programs by Deborah Diffily and Kathy Morrison



March 2025

Zion Lutheran ECEC

204 S. Grant Street
Hinsdale, IL 60521
630-323-0065

www.zionhinsdale.org

Upcoming Dates:

- ☉ March 9—Art Show 9:30
- ☉ March 10-11 Grand Friends Days
- ☉ March 17 & 18 Chapel Days
- ☉ March 31—April 4 No School Spring Break
- ☉ April 7—Welcome Back

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

<http://www.zionhinsdale.org>

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



What Did you Do at School Today?

It is difficult for young children to recall and describe what they did during the program day. Children are active and busy for the entire time, but they sometimes lack the words to tell others about their activities—or by the time you pick them up they have moved on to other things. Parents, of course, want to know about their child's day. Here are a few ideas to keep in mind when asking your child about his or her activities.

- Keep informed of the classes planned events so you can ask specific questions. For example, "Did you get to go on a nature walk today, or was it too rainy?"
- With most children, avoid general questions like "What happened at school today?"
- Avoid questions that produce one-word answers.
- Ask specific questions such as
 - Whose sharing time was it today? Tell me about what they shared?
 - What was at the art center today?
 - Tell me about this drawing in your backpack?

Sometimes telling the child a little something about your own day starts the ball rolling. The child may get the idea of sharing news and feelings about his or her day.

Taken from: Family-Friendly communication for Early Childhood Programs (NAEYC)

"The mission of Zion Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Education Center is Building and Strengthening Relationships with Jesus and Each Other & Opening the Door to a Lifetime of Christian Education."

Enrollment is open for the 2025-2026 school year.
If you have any friends who are looking into preschools, pass along a good word of mouth for Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center, Thank You.