

Director's Notes

Welcome Back to School

On behalf of Pastor Klein and the entire staff, we would like to welcome our students to Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center. It's with much enthusiasm that I write the first newsletter for the 2022-2023 school year. Over the summer I've been busy planning and praying for this successful school year. The teachers and support staff have spent hours preparing materials, getting acquainted with our new and returning Zion families and creating child-centered classrooms. The administrative staff have registered new students, put together information packets and organized class lists. All of us at Zion ECEC are eager and excited to begin what promises to be a blessed year.

We are excited to have our classrooms halls and playground filled with the sounds of children playing. It fills our hearts with Joy. For many children school is a welcome addition to their lives. For others, they may be ambivalent, desiring to make new friends and explore the classrooms, but also fearful of new situations or leaving the security of their caregivers presence. We're here to support your child.

We love children and are grateful you have chosen Zion as the education center for your child. To help with the transition into school, we do home visits and visiting days with parents.

Music Together starts September 7 and you should receive a song book with a code to access a song list on the Music Together app. I hope you take a moment to listen to the songs and play them at home and in your car. This can be a nice way to transition your student to school.

Another way to help your child transition to school is talk about the different things they can do at school and how much fun they have. Talk about how much you like the classroom and teachers. Tell them your excited to hear what they did in school. If your child doesn't talk much you can get ideas from the teachers to what your child is interested in. Try to hide your own fears and anxiety and be positive. Your child's teachers is available to support you and your child. By the time May comes aground you will see a more confident child.

As the School's Director, it is important to me that everyone who steps through our doors from parents, students and teaches alike, know that Jesus loves them and they're happy to be here.

As excited as I am to offer this monthly newsletter, it is the face-to-face interactions that I value most. Please know that I have an open door policy, and welcome any opportunity to meet with you.

What is Developmentally Appropriate Practice

You probably have noticed that our classrooms has a lot of bustle and noise, that children are up doing things, talking, playing and exploring. Such a classroom environment differs from the old grade school images of a teacher doing a lot of talking at a blackboard while children sit and listen quietly at their desks.

Research and experience tell us that to be effective with young children, teaching practices need to be "developmentally appropriate." What this means is simply that educators need to think first about what young children are like and then create an environment and experiences that are in tune with children's characteristics.

Early childhood, after all, is a time of life quite different from adulthood, and even from the later school years. Children 3-6 learn better through direct interactive experiences than just listening to someone talk. They learn extraordinary amounts through play and exploration. And the younger children are, the more what they learn needs to be relevant and interesting on the day they learn it, not just in the context of the future learning.

Based on such knowledge about what children of this age are like, we design our program to them. It works a lot better than trying to redesign children!

A developmentally appropriate program, like ours, is age appropriate. But that's not all. To make the program a good place for every child, we gear our class-room environment and activities to this community and the families, cultural background, past experience, and current circumstances. With knowledge we work to create a program that fits the children and the families we serve.

Family-Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs Deborah Diffily and Kathy Morison



September 2022

Zion Lutheran ECEC

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Upcoming Dates:

- ☺ September 5, Labor Day No School
- ☺ September 11, Staff Installation 9:30 Zion Church
- ☺ October 3 & 4 Photo Days—see teacher schedule
- ☺ October 10, NO SCHOOL. Happy Columbus Day
- ☺ October 17, Chapel @9:10
- ☺ October 18th School Photos Tues/Thurs students
- ☺ October 21, NO SCHOOL. Teacher Conference

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



"Building and Strengthening Relationships with Jesus and Each Other & Opening the Door to a Lifetime of Christian Education."