

# Director's Notes

## Welcome Back to School

On behalf of Pastor Rock and the entire staff, we would like to welcome parents and children to Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center. It's with much enthusiasm that I write the first newsletter of the 2024-2025 school year. Over the summer I've been busy praying and planning 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. This year we will continue to provide hands on academic experiences and guidance for our students that are creative, curious and knowledgeable to help build relationships and real world connections. As the School Director, it's important to me that everyone who steps through our doors know that Jesus loves them and we're happy to have them here.

Please know I have an open door policy and welcome any opportunity to meet with you.

## Transitioning Back to School

Even when returning to a familiar setting after summer vacation, children usually feel a bit intimidated. They may have a new teacher, there are new kids in the group, and maybe a special friend is gone. Here's how you can help your child's beginning of school be as smooth possible.

You may want to read your child a few books with a "starting-school" theme. Such stories can help the child get in touch with his/her feelings about going to a new place and separating from you. Reading also gives the child an opportunity to talk about their feelings or ask questions about what to expect. It's a good idea to go over the daily schedule with your child, talk about what they'll be doing over the course of the day. Finally when it's time to leave say good bye, don't worry. We'll take it from there.

Excerpts from: Family-Friendly Communications for Early Childhood Programs Deborah Diffily and Kathy Morison, editors



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Zion Lutheran ECEC

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[www.zionhinsdale.org](http://www.zionhinsdale.org)

### Upcoming Dates:

- ☉ August 28 & 29 First days of preschool
- ☉ September 2 -No School Labor Day
- ☉ September 3—Full day add on programs begin
- ☉ September 15—Staff Installation service
- ☉ September 30 Photo Day—see teacher schedule
- ☉ October 1—Photo Day—see teacher schedule

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

<http://www.zionhinsdale.org>

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



"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!

# Get Them to School Every Day

Preschool is the ideal time to stress the importance of consistent on-time attendance and encourage strong attendance habits



## Be enthusiastic!

Talk often to children about why school is important.



## Be consistent

Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.



## Be prepared

Lay out clothes and pack lunches and backpacks the night before.



## Be flexible

Make a plan for getting to school in case something comes up.

Adapted from Attendance Works ([www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org))

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this tip sheet are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois State Board of Education.



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Illinois State  
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# Supporting Adult-Child Relationships

*Young children thrive when the adults around them show they care. Young children learn they have value and develop a sense of self-worth through warm interactions with primary caregivers. Your children learn from your words and actions whenever they are with you.*

## Playtime is practice time

Your child practices social and communication skills during playtime by learning to share ideas, take turns, and express emotions. As you play, demonstrate kindness, thoughtfulness, and working together to solve problems.

## Set a good example

Your child learns how to treat people kindly by watching you. Show your child cooperative and kind behaviors when you interact with other adults. He notices when you say "Thank you" when a cashier hands you change or when you say "Excuse me" to the stock clerk in the grocery store when you need help finding an item.



## Build connections

Encourage your child's connections with relatives, neighbors, child care providers, and teachers. He will turn to these safe adults for help when he has a problem. Say, "This is such a nice drawing. I think Uncle Joe would like it. Let's send it to him."

## Use appropriate language

Explain appropriate ways to talk to adults. Teach your child to use kind words and polite manners. Your child notices your tone of voice and body language. This includes using appropriate ways to address people such as calling the dentist "Dr. Patel" or calling a neighbor "Mrs. Jones" if that is how she prefers to be addressed.

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