

Early Learning Center
Rainbow Room
www.elcpreschool.com 973-7722



Dear Rainbow Room Parents,

Welcome to an exciting school year at the Early Learning Center! **This is important information about how we do things in our classroom. Please read it carefully, and keep it where you can easily refer to it.** We hope you will share your thoughts and ideas with us at any time, and we'd be delighted to have you join us in the classroom whenever you would like.

First Week Of School

When you arrive with your child please help them:

- 1) Learn to hang their coat on their hook
- 2) Hang their tote bag on their hook.
- 3) Assist your child in washing and drying their hands (sing Happy Birthday while washing!)
- 4) Visit the "Greeting Table" (white media table) for a simple activity to do together
- 5) Help your child engage in play or direct them to the window where they can wave good-bye

The first few weeks of school can be difficult separating for both of you. We have found that having a positive and consistent good-bye routine helps the children settle in. Please let the teachers know if you need special assistance in this area.

DAILY ROUTINE

<u>AM Classes</u>	<u>PM Classes</u>	
8:45 - 9:15	12:30 - 1:00	Arrival
9:15 - 9:30	1:00 - 1:15	Hello time: greetings, helpers, introduction to the day's activities
9:30 - 10:30	1:15 - 2:15	Choice time/Small Groups: art process projects, dramatic play, easel, cooking, table activities, etc.
10:30 - 10:50	2:15 - 2:35	Clean-up, bathroom, hand washing, songs, movement, finger plays
10:50 - 11:00	2:35 - 2:45	Snack
11:00 - 11:15	2:45 - 3:00	Individual Quiet Reading and Story Time
11:15 - 11:45	3:00 - 3:30	Outdoor playtime
11:45	3:30	Dismissal

Dismissal Time

We will usually be outside on the playground and we will dismiss the children from there as soon as you arrive at the gate. A teacher will be at the gate to say goodbye; check with her in case there's anything special she wants to tell you about your child's day. If we are not outside playing, please come into the classroom to get your child.

Show and Tell & Hopping Helper

On the days your child is chosen to be a "Hopping Helper" (s/he will lead the line, check the weather, and lay out books for quiet reading), s/he will also take home a "Show and Tell" bag. Please send this bag back to ELC on your child's next school day with **ONE** item in it. This item need not be related to the weekly theme, but it certainly may if your child wishes.

Family Photos Wanted!!!

Please bring in a family photo as soon as possible. We will hang these in the classroom. This will assist your child with their transition as well as assist us in getting to know your family.

Birthdays

Most children enjoy bringing in a special snack for their birthday. Please let us know in advance if you would like to do this so we don't plan another snack for that day. Please note that ELC has birthday snack guidelines, based on NAEYC rules. This information is on the bulletin board, and in the Parent Handbook.

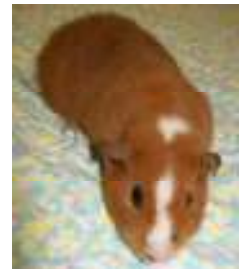


School Bags and Outerwear

Please have your child bring their ELC tote bag for carrying home art work, notes, etc. every day. **Please label it clearly on the outside with your child's first and last name.** We encourage the children to also decorate their tote bag to make them unique and easy to identify! Also, please label all outerwear with your child's name. We do try to go outside every day, so please send your child to school with appropriate outdoor clothing.

Classroom Pets

Our classroom has a guinea pig named Miss Dixie. Guinea Pigs love celery leaves (no stalks please), carrots, lettuce and apple slices, so feel free to send a snack your child can feed to her. If you would like to take the Miss Dixie home for a week-end or vacation, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the classroom. We also have an aquarium of fish. If your child has any allergies to these pets, please let us know as soon as possible.



Sally the Story Mouse

Sally is our puppet friend that loves stories. She comes out of her home and sits on the teacher's lap whenever a story is read in the classroom. Sally has small ears, of course, so she needs it to be very quiet in the room while a story is being read. Please encourage your child to help Sally hear the story!

Camelia

Camelia is our puppet friend who introduces our themes or special events. She always carries a purse that contains something special that relates to our unit. Camelia lives in a basket that she calls home.

Process Art

Our art projects are often “process-oriented.” We believe this best allows the child to explore his/her creativity. Art projects of this nature are frequently group projects done on large paper—so your child may not always bring home an individual project.

Traveling Pets

The Rainbow Room has three different has three traveling take-home “pet” bags. Inside these bags there will be a stuffed animal with play props, books, and a journal to document these animal visits. Your child will share their journal page with the class during group time. We encourage you to make these “pets” a part of your family during their visit with you. They are machine washable and dryable, so let your children really involve them in their play. They provide an excellent opportunity for your child to practice nurturing, social and language skills!

Postcards

When you travel throughout the year, please think of us. Send us a postcard and we will read it to the class and display it on the wall by the U.S. map. It’s fun to see all the different places we go.

Transition Help

Please talk with us if your child has an important comfort item (blanket, stuffed animal, etc.) that s/he might have difficulty separating from.

Classroom Volunteers

We encourage parents to get involved with their child’s preschool experience. Some ways to help:

- Cut out art project paper (especially helpful)
- Take Miss Dixie home for weekends or breaks
- Share a special talent or career
- Field trip drivers
- Mend and/or create dress-up clothes
- Mend books

We welcome any of your ideas as well!

Communication

If you have any concerns at any time during the year, please feel free to call us at home, leave us a message at school, or email us, and we’ll get back to you as soon as possible. If your child has any allergies or diet restrictions, ***please let us know right away***. We try to do some cooking in the classroom, and it helps to know if we need to plan special diets. A newsletter of our weekly activities will be posted on our website. Please check the parent bulletin boards in the hallways and classroom and read the school newsletter Mrs. Grzesiak posts on our website each month for any important school information.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year with your children and you!

Wendy Kelley
wendy@elcpreschool.com

Marciah Boerema
marciah@elcpreschool.com

Dana Roland
dana@elcpreschool.com