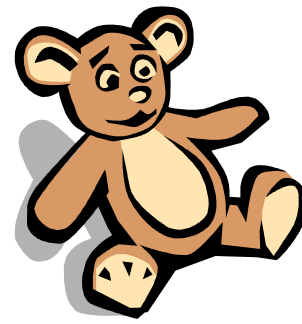


EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Teddy Bear Room

www.elcpreschool.com 973-7722



Dear Teddy Bear Families,

Welcome to an exciting year at the Early Learning Center. We would like to share some general information about how we do things in our classroom. 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 at any time.

DAILY SCHEDULE

8:45-9:05	Children arrive
12:30-12:50	
9:05-9:20	Group Time: Introduction to the day's activities
12:50-1:05	
9:20-9:35	Small Group
1:05-1:20	
9:35-10:20	Free Choice Time: Art activities, dramatic play, easel, media table, table activities, floor toy, gross motor play, etc.)
1:20-2:15	
10:20-10:30	Clean up time and wash hands for snack, animal bags
2:15-2:25	
10:30-10:50	Snack time and quiet book time
2:25-2:40	
10:50-11:20	Group time (Discussion of weekly theme, movement, story)
2:40-3:05	
11:20-11:45	Outside (weather permitting) and dismissal
3:05-3:30	

CLASS PET

Our class pets are two guinea pigs named Reese and Kisses. They are brother and sister and love special treats such as cucumbers, green peppers, ROMAINE lettuce (NO iceberg), and carrots. Feel free to send in a special treat for them with your child and he/she can feed him. They love to go home with a friend on weekends and vacations, so please watch for a sheet to sign up posted on the Teddy Bear bulletin board. (If interested, it does fill up quickly!)

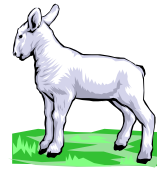
ANIMAL BAGS

There are three stuffed animals that will come home with your child during the school year, (Taffy the Puppy, Bananas the Gorilla, and Bubba Bear). We encourage you to make them a part of your family during their visit with you. They are machine washable and dryable, so let your child really involve them in his/her play. They provide an excellent opportunity for your child to practice nurturing, social skills, and language skills. Please have your child draw a picture and dictate a story about their adventures in the notebook provided.



LILY THE STORY LAMB

Lily the Lamb is our puppet friend who loves stories. She comes out and sits on the teacher's lap whenever a story is read to the class. Lily has small sensitive ears, so she needs it to be very quiet in the classroom during story time! Please encourage your child to help Lily hear the story.



ACTIVITY BAGS

Many bags will be available to check out of the classroom that you can keep at home for up to one week. Each bag contains some special activities you might enjoy doing with your child. Please don't feel you must do everything in the bag! They are not homework for you or your child! We've created these to provide you with something special and different to do with your child. Have fun! They will be located in the Teddy Bear room bathroom.

SCHOOL BAGS AND OUTERWEAR

Please have your child bring his/her ELC bag for carrying home artwork, notes, etc, every day. Please label it clearly on the outside with your child's name. We do try and go outside EVERY DAY, weather permitting, so please send your child to school in appropriate outdoor clothing, as well as indoor PLAY clothes.



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We encourage parents to get involved with their child's pre-school experience. Some ways you can help are: Phone parent, (make reminder calls); Clothes mender (mend and wash dress up clothes as needed); Share a talent (music, career, story, etc.); Field trip driver; or especially, cut and laminate for the teachers! Sign up on the ELC bulletin board!

CLASSROOM HELPERS



Teddy Bear kids are usually very eager to help out in the classroom. Therefore, we have created several ways for the children to help us out. Our job chart contains ten different "jobs" that we will assign the children on a rotating basis. Some of the jobs include "bell ringer" and "snack helper". Helping encourages ownership and responsibility (plus, it is just plain fun!).

LETTER BAG

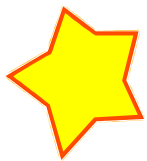
Beginning in early November, we will be focusing on recognizing and learning the sounds of all of the letters of the alphabet. The children will be asked to bring items from home each week on Thursday/Friday that begin with the corresponding letter of the week. We will let you know in advance the letter that we will be studying.



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

During the first few months of school we will be focusing on a different color each week. Check our bulletin board in the coatroom to see what the week's color is. It will also be written in your weekly newsletter that will be available to you online the week before.

STAR OF THE WEEK



Each week one child from each class will be featured as “star of the week”. For this event the children are asked to bring in a small poster (that we will send home to use) with labeled pictures, etc. on it that tell a little about your child. **BE CREATIVE!** We will post a chart with the date your child will be our “star”, and we will send home a reminder note along with your poster board the week before. These will be displayed at the children’s eye level during their week and then posted in our classroom for the remainder of the school year. (You might want to make colored copies of your pictures and use them on the poster.)

BIRTHDAYS

Most children enjoy bringing in a special snack for their birthday. Please let us know in advance if you wish to do this, so we can plan our snacks accordingly. If your child celebrates a summer birthday, perhaps you would like to celebrate his/her “half birthday” at school. Before planning a treat, please check with the teachers about any food allergies in the class. Please note also that we are a nut-free school. NAEYC guidelines limit the types of food that may be brought into the center. Popsicles, individual ice cream or pudding cups, single serving factory sealed rice krispie treats, or goldfish crackers or teddy grahams are acceptable. Or, you may bring in party favors for each child (pencil/stickers, etc.), or donate a book or toy in your child’s name.



JOURNALS

Each week during choice time, the children will have the opportunity to “write a story” or do some other language activity. They can tell a story (real or fictional) to the teacher who writes it down in their exact words in their journals (each child will have his/her own). They may also be asked to “write” something theme related and draw a picture. These will be kept in their portfolios. This is a great way to encourage language skills and early reading and writing development.

COMMUNICATION.

Please remember to check the weekly newsletters that are posted on our website each week, as well as your child’s school bag EACH day. Also check Mrs. Grzesiak’s monthly newsletters on the website for any important school information.

We have three scheduled evaluations during the year; a phone conference in the fall to let you know how your child is doing socially, a formal parent/teacher conference in the early spring, and a written evaluation at the end of the year along with some ideas for summer growth to ready your child for school the following fall.

If you ever have any questions or concerns during the school year, please do not hesitate to come to us. We will be happy to set up a special time to talk to you. We believe that parent-teacher communication is the key to a successful preschool year. If your child has any allergies or diet restrictions, please let us know right away. We try to do some cooking activities in the classroom, and it helps to know if we need to plan for some special diets.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

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