

# Parent Newsletter



Wishing Well Preschool  
& Childcare

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## 4K 2017-18 Reminder

### Upcoming Parent Information Meeting

There are two upcoming informational meetings scheduled for families whose children will be eligible for 4-year-old kindergarten during the 2017-18 school year. Your child will have to be four years old on or before September 1, 2017 to qualify for 4K.

If you are interested in finding out more about the DASD 4K program, please plan on attending one of the following meetings:

Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Both meetings will be held at the DeForest Public Library Community Room on the lower level at 6:30 PM.

Staff from the school district will be available to answer your questions.

Wishing Well Preschool is a 4K partner with the DASD. We currently offer four sessions including two with "wrap care" for families who need full day care for their child which incorporates 4K into mornings or afternoons.

If your child currently attends Wishing Well

Preschool and you live outside of the DeForest school district, you will need to apply for open enrollment which opens in February. Please speak with Sheila if you have questions regarding open enrollment.

Additional information regarding wrap care will be sent home in January.



Get Together for Kids

### Dates to Remember

January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Closed in observance of New Years

January 5<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> - 4K Parent Meeting

February 17<sup>th</sup> – Closed for Annual Training Day

### Winter Reminders:

- Label all of your child's winter apparel.
- Keep shoes or slippers at school for your child to wear.
- Please avoid sending scarf due to safety concerns.
- Keep an extra set of clothes in your child's cubby.

### Year-End Tax Statements

Available by January 31<sup>st</sup>

Each January, Wishing Well provides families with a tax statement totaling their tuition payments from the previous year.

We are currently in the process of preparing these year-end statements. They should be available to families no later than January 31, 2017.

They will be sent home via your child's take home folder which is located in their classroom. They will be on a half sheet of paper, so please look carefully for it.

If your year-end statement is misplaced and you need a replacement, please note that the office will need at

least a 48 hour notice to provide you with a new statement. It is unlikely that we will be able to provide that information over the phone while you are meeting with your accountant. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

## The Importance of Play

### Play = Learning

Play is special for children. Not only is it fun, but it is also important for healthy development. It is their “work” and their way of learning about the world.

Through play, children try out new skills, explore their imagination and creativity, and develop relationships with other people in their lives. Playtime with your child also brings out the best in you. The beauty of this learning and growing time is that the motivation for a young child to play is already there ~ it is enjoyable.

Children’s behavior in play develops in stages. Play allows children to explore new things at their own pace, master physical agility, learn new skills and figure things out in their own way. During play with

other children learn leadership skills by directing the action or by following a leader.

Children benefit from playing in the following areas:

**Blocks** allow children to experiment with construction techniques while learning the vocabulary of spatial concepts like “inside”, “outside”, “next to”, or “on top of”. In addition, blocks help children express ideas, and feelings, interpret what they have observed and learn cooperation and planning.

**Pretend play** with housekeeping equipment, adult clothes and other materials, let children experience role-playing with their own family life with other people they encounter. With the right props, children can become

firefighters, grocery clerks, truck drivers, postal workers, and other roles they want to explore. Creativity flows as children express their feelings, imagination and ideas.

**Art Materials** include a variety of paper, crayons, paint supplies, scissors, markers, collage materials, tape, a punch, glue, and any other items that allow children to explore, experience their five senses and enjoy the freedom of creativity.

**Puzzles and manipulatives** like small blocks, Legos, stringing beads, pegs and peg boards encourage children to develop math skills, small muscles and hand-eye coordination.

Best 5 toys of all time:

1. Stick
2. Box
3. String
4. Cardboard Tube
5. Dirt

## Staffing Updates

### We will miss you!

Many of you may remember Ms. Dani who worked with our two-year old’s for several years at our main building. Two years ago, she moved over to our 4K wrap care classroom at Wishing Well 2.0. With mixed emotions, we wanted to let everyone know that she has decided to move to Oklahoma to be closer to her family.

Ms. Dani’s last day with our program is January 20<sup>th</sup>. We wish her all the best on the next chapter of her life.

As a result, Ms. Kristi will be taking over our wrap care program at 2.0. We are excited to have her join our school-age team and feel she will be a great addition to the

implementation of our 4K program.

We have been diligently searching for a qualified lead-teacher. Unfortunately, we have yet to find the perfect fit. Until we do, Ms. Sheila will be returning to the classroom. This transition will begin the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>.



## Be an Active Family

### Tips for becoming more active as a family

1

Set specific activity times

Determine time slots throughout the week when the whole family is available. Devote a few of these times to physical activity. Try doing something active after dinner or begin the weekend with a Saturday morning walk.

2