

Take Note

Wishing Well 2.0 School Age Program

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Early Years are Learning Years Week of the Young Child

We are excited to announce our upcoming *Week of the Young Child™* events for April 16 – 20th this year. (See the attached flyer for special events and dress up days.)

The *Week of the Young Child™* is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC is the world's largest early childhood education association with nearly 60,000 members and a network of 50 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the *Week of the Young Child™* is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that they meet.

NAEYC first established the *Week of the Young Child™* in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The *Week of the Young Child™* is a time to plan how we – as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation- will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing.

The *Week of the Young Child™* is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibility, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that every child experiences the type of early environment – at home, at child care, at school, and in the community – that will promote their early learning.

Join us in celebrating children, families, and teachers this week!

Cost of Quality Care Price Increase

Each Spring we evaluate the cost of running a quality child care center. We consider the rising costs involved in the day to day operations such as food and utilities as well as teacher salaries.

Many of our teachers have been with us for a considerable amount of time. Their commitment and dedication are the primary reason Wishing Well is a Nationally Accredited Center and a 5 Star Center. To ensure we retain these great people, their compensation also needs to be evaluated.

Although we do not like to increase our tuition, it is a necessary part of meeting our financial obligations. Our price increase was scheduled to go into effect on March 6th but to give proper notice the increase will be effective starting June 11, 2018.

Summer is Here! Reminders

Thank you to all the families for a successful school year. Summer time is almost here and that means lots of time outside. Just a reminder that Wishing Well provides sunscreen for the summer months. It is an SPF 50. Please sign the attached permission slip for sunscreen application as we can only apply sunscreen to children who have a signed form on file. Sunscreen is applied before going outside both in the morning and in the afternoon.

Be a Healthy Role Model for Children

Encourage Physical Activity

Make physical activity fun for the whole family. Involve your children in the planning. Walk, run, and play with your child – instead of sitting on the sidelines. Set an example by being physically active and using safety gear. like bike helmets.



Five Essentials of Play

Play = Learning

When you think back on your childhood, what happy play memories come to mind? Adults today tend to think back on their childhood play memories with nostalgia and often call them the “the good old days”. Memories of joyful and meaningful play experiences help bind families together emotionally, even long after children are grown. Are our children experiencing the same kind of joy, meaning, and family bonding in their play?

Here are five elements essential to meaningful play that create those rich memories we treasure:

1. Children make their own decisions

When children choose how to play for themselves, they experience freedom in making those choices. They also begin to see connections between choice and the consequences of that choice. The type of toys or materials parents offer can help their children make more meaningful decisions. Open-ended materials can be used in many ways, so children can decide for themselves how to use them. Open ended materials inspire creative thinking.

2. Children are intrinsically motivated.

The impulse to play comes from a natural desire to understand the world. This play impulse is as strong as your child’s desire for food or sleep. It is this intrinsic motivation that allows a child to regulate her own feelings and desires to keep playing. Because children eventually find it more important to be part of play with their friends than to satisfy their own wants and needs at the moment, children learn self-control. And self-control has been shown to lead to success in

later years.

3. Children become immersed in the moment

In true play, children are so fully engaged that they lose awareness of their surroundings, time, and space. In this risk-free atmosphere where reality is suspended, children have the security and safety they need to experiment, try new ideas, and investigate the laws of nature. Although they are immersed in their play, children still can recognize reality versus fantasy.

4. Play is spontaneous, not scripted.

Often, play is totally unplanned. Other times, play is planned but the child impulsively makes a change. One child changes his mind, or perhaps a toy does not cooperate. This sense of the unknown provides children with opportunities to develop flexibility in their thinking and decision making, which is a vital life skill.

5. Play is enjoyable.

Play always has an emotional response attached to it. Without this emotional connection, the experience is simply an activity; it is not PLAY. Enjoyment is the direct result of engaging in play. It is FUN!

These five essential elements of play outline why play provides your child with a rich experience. An isn’t that what we want for our children, to develop play memories that will become the “good old days”?

Written by Marcia L. Nell and Walter F. Drew authors of [From Play to Practice: Connecting Teachers’ Play to Children’s Learning](#).

Spring Reminders

- Label **all** your child’s extra apparel. We have about 125 children who use our school each day. It is easy for items to get left behind or mixed up. To avoid this issue, please make sure that your child’s belongings are labeled with their names. We do our best to know what child has which shoes, mittens, hats, etc. but we still need your help.
- Keep shoes or slippers at school for your child to wear. We have wooden floors in two of our classrooms and the harsh outdoor elements and salts can be very damaging to them. Please be make sure your child has slippers or indoor shoes to wear at Wishing Well.
- The weather is unpredictable in the spring. Your child may need a winter coat, hat, and mittens in the morning and a light jacket in the afternoon. Please plan accordingly and discuss with your child’s teacher regarding your wishes for outdoor play attire.

Important Dates

4/16 – 4/20: *Week of the Young Child™* celebration (see flyer for fun dress up days and special activities)

Monday, 4/16 – No School DASD

Sunday, 4/22: Earth Day

Monday Morning – When weekly tuition is due for week of care

Tuesday Morning – When past due payment fee is applied to all unpaid accounts