

The Play Schools

Hours of Operation:
6:30 am - 6:00 pm M-F

February 2019 Newsletter

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Upcoming Events!

- ◆ All Staff Professional Development Day- We will be **CLOSED** on Monday, February 18th, 2019!
- ◆ Friendship Parties: Thursday, February 14th from 3:00-4:00pm.



... gifts we give to children.

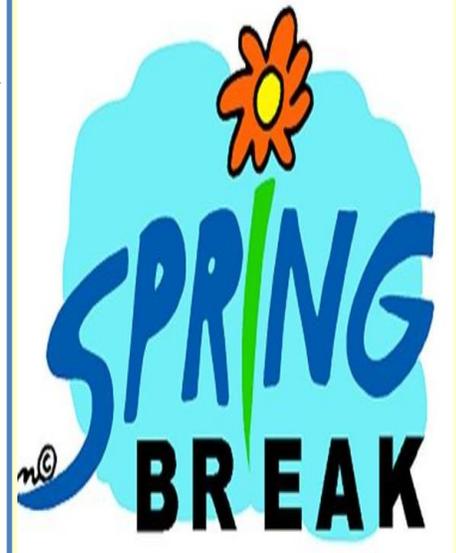
PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

The Play Schools will announce and hold annual school-wide teacher conferences in June. In addition, please know that we conduct conferences upon request at any time of the year as well. At The Play School, we strive to create a comfortable and approachable environment where you can contact your teachers or your Center Director at any time should you have questions, concerns, praises or feedback. We view all our families and staff as an extension of our family so please let us know how we can help you and make your experience at The Play School meaningful.

Housekeeping Items

WHO NEEDS THE BEACH!?!

We will still be here basking in the fun at The Play School! We are finalizing our Big Kid's Spring Break calendar. We have prepared a packet of information that provides details of what our 4 Kids Only Club entails (Elementary Age Program). In the packet, you'll find information about the types of experiences we have planned, the teaching teams we have in place, and the safety measures we take to ensure the kids are not only having a blast but are safe always. For those of you who are heading to warmer climates in the next couple of months, please reach out to your Center Director so she can issue vacation credits as needed. As always, thanks for being a part of The Play School. Having families like yours makes our school great.



THE PLAY SCHOOL 2019 CLOSURES

- Monday, February 18 ~ Staff Professional Development Day/President's Day
- Monday, May 27 ~ In observance of Memorial Day
- Thursday, July 4 ~ In observance of Independence Day
- Monday, September 2 ~ In observance of Labor Day
- Thursday, November 28 ~ In observance of Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 29 ~ In observance of Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, December 24 - Closing early at 3:00pm for Christmas Eve
- Wednesday, December 25 ~ In observance of Christmas Day
- Tuesday, December 31 ~ Closing early at 3:00 pm for New Year's Eve
- Wednesday, January 1 ~ In observance of New Year's Day



Page 3 of 7 **Housekeeping Items (continued)**

SAY CHEESE!

Spring Picture dates have been set.

Tuesday, 3/12 - Arbor Village

Wednesday, 3/13 - Saxony Village

Thursday, 3/14 - Legacy

Watch for more details coming soon in the month of February.

FRIENDSHIP PARTIES

Our annual Friendship parties will be held in-class on Thursday, February 14th from 3:00-4:00 pm. While donations are never required, we are always grateful for any contributions. Sign-up sheets have been posted on your child's classroom door offering ways parents can help enhance the parties.

For privacy reasons, we DO NOT send home class lists.

Please simply write "To: My Friend. From: (your child's name)" on the Valentines. It is not necessary to address them individually. Many thanks for all that you do to make these festivities such a fun celebration.

**REFERRAL AND REVIEW CREDITS!**

Refer a family to The Play Schools and after their fifth week of care, you will receive a \$100 credit on your account! This is for new families only and they must mention your family's name at the time of enrollment for the credit to be issued.

THANK YOU

Through the month of February, if you leave a review of The Play School on Google, Yelp, or any other prominent review site, send the link to your center director. You will then be entered into a random drawing for sharing your family's positive Play School experience publicly. At the end of this month we will select one review from a random generator and that person will receive a one-time \$50 tuition credit on their family's account. We understand how busy everyone is, so thank you from the bottom of our hearts if you feel compelled to leave a review or refer family or friends to us.

VACATION POLICY

The Play Schools generously offer our families two weeks of "tuition free vacation time" annually from August to August. You must notify your director of your child's absence in advance and it must be a full week at a time (no split weeks). Vacation weeks cannot be used toward your required two-week notice if withdrawing from our school. Vacation slips are in the front entry.

The two weeks of annual vacation time started over on Monday, August 7th for all enrolled children. Therefore, all children have two weeks to use for the 2019/2020 year. Unused weeks from 2018/2019 do not roll over.

We are most grateful for any absence notifications as this may lead to some additional time off for our teachers to spend with their loved ones. If your child will be out for even a day or two, please notify the office in advance. We appreciate you taking the time to keep us in the loop regarding your child's attendance.

GRADUATION 2019!

The Play Schools is excited to start planning for the 31st class to graduate! Graduation dates are as follows:

5/13 - Saxony Village

5/15 - Legacy

5/17 - Arbor Village



Times will be confirmed soon but generally ceremonies begin at 4:15pm.

CALLING ALL 2019 KINDERGARTENERS!

Local schools are getting ready to meet their next class of Kindergarteners. Below are important dates coming up in our local schools:

HSE - Kindergarten Registration Open Now. April 11, 2019 - Kindergarten Open House

Carmel - Kindergarten Registration Open Now; Open House Dates Vary by School

Noblesville - Week of 5/13/19 - Kindergarten Registration and Round-up

~PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN FOR OVER 30 YEARS~

It is a great privilege to be a part of your family's formative years! We honor this great responsibility in everything we do at The Play School, and we want to be a resource for you as you navigate through the ages and stages of your child(ren)'s education. This year, Ms. Rita will graduate her 31st year of preschoolers! In this month's parent newsletter, we want to provide you with information about The Play School's preschool program and all that goes into ultimately preparing your child(ren) for kindergarten. It starts with making sure our school is comprised of the most loving, educated, and passionate teachers for your child(ren). Included below is a chart that highlights the cumulative education of our amazing Play School preschool teachers. I hope that it will give you a tremendous level of comfort that you have chosen the best early education program for your child.

Ms. Tammy (3s) Childhood Development Associates	Ms. Peggy (3s) pursuing Child Development Associates	Ms. Leah (3s) pursuing associates in Early Childhood Education
Ms. Kirstin (3s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education	Ms. Hailey (3s) Associates in Early Childhood Education	Ms. Victoria (3s) Childhood Development Associates
Mr. Patrick (4s) Bachelor's in Secondary Education and CDA	Ms. Vanessa (4s) Childhood Development Associates	Ms. Charlyn (3s) Bachelor's in Family and Consumer Science
Ms. Rachael (4s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education	Ms. Shar (4s) pursuing Childhood Development associate degree	Ms. Jess (3s) Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education
Ms. Jackie (5s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education	Ms. Cynthia (5s) bachelor's in Business Education	Ms. Amanda (4s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education
Ms. Gabi (5s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education	Ms. Kara (5s) bachelor's in Elementary Education	Mr. AJ (4s) pursuing degree in General Studies
		Ms. Anastasia (5s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education
		Ms. Rosi (5s) Spanish Education Degree

Kindergarten-readiness is about more than just ABCs and 123s. Kindergarten success depends as much on social-emotional readiness as it does on the cognitive skills they have gained along the way at home and at The Play School. In Kindergarten, teachers use three main instructional routines: whole class instruction (circle time); learning centers (free choice centers) and seat work (direct instruction time). Every day, our preschool 3s, 4s and 5s classroom time includes each of these. You can be sure your child has already been introduced to, and comfortable with, these instructional routines.

KINDERGARTEN SKILLS BEGIN AT PRESCHOOL

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Follows daily routines | • Completes a simple task |
| • Follows directions | • Ability to follow classroom rules |
| • Asks for help | • Accepts guidance and limits from adults |
| • Listens to gather information | • Takes care of personal needs (e.g. toileting, blowing nose, washing hands) |

<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Literacy</u>	<u>Calendar</u>
Count to 100	All numbers and letters	Beginning Sounds, A-Z	Days of the Week
Counting by 2s, 5s and 10s Add numbers within 10	Sight Words Inventive Spelling to go along with pictures	Rhyming Word Families	Months of the Year Weather
Measuring Shapes and Colors	Labeling First and Last Name	Comprehension of Stories Sight Word Recognition	Ordinal Numbers Morning Meeting & Relationship Building
Patterning	Small Gross Motor Development	Guided Reading - Levels A & B	*Also done in Spanish

Preschool is an exciting time! We look forward to working together to ensure your child meets the physical, social and cognitive milestones that take place in these early years of development. Along with all the directors and teachers at The Play School, we thank you for entrusting us with the care and education of your special child(ren)!

Sincerely,
Rita Hafner, Katie Guerra, and Amanda McKeon, Owners

What's Cooking? Our Lunch Menu



Thursday, Feb. 1: Homemade Baked Ziti, romaine salad with light ranch, fresh cherry tomatoes, milk

Monday, Feb. 4: Chicken Tenders, WG breading, green beans, applesauce, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 5: Turkey burgers w/WG bun, cheese slice, steamed broccoli, banana, milk

Wednesday, Feb. 6: Beef spaghetti w/WG noodles, peas, fruit cocktail, milk

Thursday, Feb. 7: Homemade white chicken chili, corn, mandarin oranges, cornbread, milk

Friday, Feb. 8: Homemade meatloaf, pears, diced carrots, buttered bread, milk

Monday, Feb. 11: Sausage and cheese pizza, WG crust, corn, peaches, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 12: Homemade tater tot casserole, baked beans, applesauce, milk

Wednesday, Feb. 13: Cheese quesadillas, pears, peas, milk

Thursday, Feb. 14: Homemade Chicken Alfredo, WG pasta, chicken/sauce, steamed broccoli, diced pineapple, milk

Friday, Feb. 15: Chicken stir-fry w/brown rice, mandarin oranges, milk

Monday, Feb. 18: CLOSED FOR STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Tuesday, Feb. 19: Cheeseburger w/WG bun, cherry tomatoes, lettuce salad with light ranch, milk

Wednesday, Feb. 20: Turkey links, French toast sticks, green beans, diced grapes, milk

Thursday, Feb. 21: WG breaded and baked chicken nuggets, corn, diced mangoes, WG roll, milk

Friday, Feb. 22: Homemade Chicken and Rice, brown rice, mixed veggies, pears, milk

Monday, Feb. 25: Ravioli, WG pasta, meat sauce, steamed broccoli, mandarin oranges, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 26: WG breaded and baked chicken patty w/WG bun, corn, applesauce, milk

Wednesday, Feb. 27: Homemade Chicken and Noodles, WG noodles, mixed veggies, banana, milk

Thursday, Feb. 28: Homemade baked ziti w/WG pasta, peas, diced grapes, milk

**WG = Whole Grain

**Whole grains are automatically served for breads, pastas, waffles, crackers, etc.

**Canned fruits and vegetables are served at a minimum, replaced as much as possible with fresh fruits and vegetables



4 Kidz Only Club Information

We are already preparing for our annual 4 Kidz Only Summer Club for school-age children, Kindergarten and older. Every summer, our school-age Before and After Care program transitions into a "camp-like environment" where your child can enjoy safe and engaging field trips off-campus three to four days each week. This is a well-structured field trip program that is staffed full-time by three consistent, highly competent Play School teachers who respect and understand the awesome responsibility of taking your child out into our local community. Examples of field trips include:

- Bowling
- Movies
- Pottery
- Parks
- Splash pads
- Gymnastics
- Sports camps
- Bounce houses
- The Indianapolis Zoo
- Conner Prairie
- Animal Exploration, and more!



This year, we are focusing our summer plans on *fresh air, movement, field trips, EXPERIENCES, new discoveries, and socialization!* The Play School is going on a "technology diet" this summer! We want the children to socialize with each other, continue to develop kindness, and build on the friendships that already exist within our school while building new connections with other children their age. We can't achieve these goals if the children are constantly immersed in technology. We know that most kids get plenty of exposure to technology at their elementary schools or homes and we simply want to have a "technology time out" at The Play School in order to offer variety in their long summer days! If you're ready for your child to have a hiatus from handheld devices, The Play School's 4 Kidz Only Summer Club is the perfect environment for your school-ager!

Our program's space is limited due to state licensing ratios and available spots on our Play School private buses. Due to its popularity and terrific reputation, this program consistently fills up in advance each and every summer. We open registration in February for the upcoming summer to our currently enrolled families. A deposit equal to one week's tuition is due, along with a registration form that we will soon send out, to hold your child(ren)'s spot. Since the deposit is held separately in your family's Play School account and will be applied toward the first week's tuition, the only thing that will be due the first week will be field trip fees and the Summer Supply Fee. Once the initial registration period (exclusive to currently enrolled Play School families) has closed, we will open any remaining spots to the public until we have reached our summer program maximum. Please don't delay as we don't want your child to miss out on all the great activities we have planned for the summer of 2019!

Your Directors will be sending out Summer Registration forms with more information soon. Be on the lookout! As always, should you have any more questions please do not hesitate to contact your Center Director. We are looking forward to a great 2019 summer together!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

It is The Play School's policy to remain open during winter weather. We do NOT close when the local elementary schools close. We will close if local government officials deem the roads too unsafe to travel. This winter we will notify parents and faculty of The Play School's decision to close if that situation arises through:

- Brightwheel
- Facebook Fan Page
- WTHR Channel 13

HSE / NOBLESVILLE / CARMEL CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURES

***Hamilton Southeastern:** No School: Monday, February 18th

Spring Break: Friday, April 1st - Friday, April 8th

***Noblesville:** No School: Monday, February 18th

Spring Break: Monday, March 25th - Friday, April 8th

***Carmel Clay:** No School: Monday, February 18th

Spring Break: Friday, April 1st - Friday, April 8th

BE SURE TO STOP BY THE FRONT OFFICE IF YOUR SCHOOL-AGER WILL NEED FULL-DAY CARE DURING SPRING BREAK.

Other Administrative Contacts

Amanda McKeon
Director of Operations/Owner
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Katie Guerra
Fiscal Director/Owner
Email: Katie@theplayschools.com

Rita Hafner
Administrator/Founder

