

# The Play Schools



**Hours of Operation:**  
6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. M-F

April 2019 Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events!

- ◆ Week of the Young Child 4/8-4/12
- ◆ Eggstravaganza 4/18
- ◆ Earth Day 4/22
- ◆ Teacher Appreciation 5/7
- ◆ Mother's Day Tea 5/9
- ◆ Graduation Dates  
5/13 - Saxony Village  
5/15 - Legacy  
5/17 - Arbor Village

## WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The National Association for the Education of Young Children has established an entire month each year to spread awareness on the incredible importance of high-quality experiences for young children. Every April, purple can be seen in high quality Early Childhood programs all over, showing support for the field and the families served. One week in April is known as the "Week of the Young Child." During April 8-12, Early Childhood programs are challenged to focus their efforts towards celebrating children through educating families, staff, and children about how important early development is.

Although our primary focus is highlighting the children during that week, we would also like to acknowledge and thank YOU, the parents, who make the most profound impact in your children's lives. We have many exciting activities planned for the children and we invite you into our schools during that week to read a story and have a breakfast treat on us each morning. Please continue reading further into this month's newsletter to find out all the wonderful events and curriculum activities we have planned to celebrate children and honor the parents and teachers in their lives, as well.

## WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD SCHEDULE OF EVENTS!

Mark your calendars! Here are our special plans for April 8-12

We are kicking off the week on Monday with dress like a Rockstar day! We will be rockin' and rollin' all day with a Rockstar dance party in the gym!

A light breakfast will be available to our amazing parents and star staff each morning. Stop by our table set up in the front lobby and grab a quick bite on the go! Thank you, parents, for being the most influential and critically important people in the children's lives! Thank you to our fantastic team of Play School faculty for partnering with parents and playing a vital role in the early developmental stages.

Star Treat Shop open every evening, all week long. Have your child stop by the table in the front lobby and select one treat on their way home. It's our little way of reminding them how special we think they are and are so glad that they come to learn and play at The Play School!

Wall of Fame - Be looking out for your child's special star that will be posted up front by mid-week for all to see. Your child's teachers will identify and write one standout, positive trait on these colorful stars to promote positive self-esteem within our Play School children. Identifying a talent, a special trait, or a positive attribute is in effort to remind each and every child that they are special, unique, and important!

On Friday, we will be having pajama day and a read-a-thon. Dress your child in their favorite PJs and bring their favorite book to school to share!

All week long be watching for additional activities within the older classrooms relating to positive self-esteem and image. These additional lessons and activities will be derived from our new Kindness Curriculum initiative we introduced to Play School classrooms back in February of this year.



## Housekeeping Items



At The Play School, we love to celebrate! This Spring, we will be celebrating the children, the teachers, the parents, and SO MUCH MORE!! We hope you can join us and celebrate too! Below are upcoming events we have planned. We will send further information and reminders through Brightwheel so you stay up to date on our school-wide events



All Week, April 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> - Week of the Young Child

April 18<sup>th</sup> - Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Earth Day

May 7<sup>th</sup> - Teacher Appreciation Day

May 9<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day Tea

May 13<sup>th</sup> - Saxony Village's PreK Graduation

May 15<sup>th</sup> - Legacy's PreK Graduation

May 17<sup>th</sup> - Arbor Village's PreK Graduation

June 13<sup>th</sup> - Father's Day Social



**Best  
Dad  
ever**



**It Takes A  
Village  
To Raise A Child.**  
~African Proverb

## Housekeeping Items (continued)

### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of children and families.

During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities and promote prevention across the county.



### BRIGHTWHEEL BILLING

Did you know?

Brightwheel automatically sends out weekly tuition invoices every Friday for the upcoming week. If you have a credit that we need to apply such as a vacation credit or payment, we must wait until your statement generates and auto-sends to you before we can go in and update your invoice with additional charges or credits. If you still don't see your credit you believe you are due by Monday, please reach out to your Director for assistance.

### GARDEN PROGRAM

The Play School children will soon be out in the gardens planting vegetables! We are excited to bring back the gardening program this year. The children have so much fun planting and tending to the gardens, but most of all, they love harvesting and eating the fresh vegetables!



### CEREAL DRIVE

The cereal drive was an exciting way to involve the children in our efforts to supply the Grace Care Center. We are grateful for the volume of donations we received. The school agers will be taking a field trip to the Grace Care Center to deliver the cereal. Thank you again for your generous donations!

### The Play School 2019 Closures

**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> - In observance of Memorial Day**

Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> - In observance of Independence Day

Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> - In observance of Labor Day

Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> - In observance of Thanksgiving

Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> - In observance of Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Closing early at 3:00pm for Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - In observance of Christmas

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - Closing early at 3:00pm for New Year's Eve

Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - In observance of New Year's Day

(All tuition remains the same)



### MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Please join us on Thursday, May 9 as we honor and pamper our special Moms with treats and tea. More information and your personal invitation including your specific tea time will be sent home later this month.



## Housekeeping Items (continued)

### SEASONAL ITEMS TO NOTE



Although it doesn't quite seem possible, warmer weather is coming soon.

We will be getting outside at every opportunity.

Please make sure you have done the following to ensure your child is ready for outdoor play and warmer weather:

- Check your child's cubby for both seasonal and size-appropriate clothing. Take home those heavy sweaters and fleece lined winter pants and replace with "extra" clothes that are comfortable for this upcoming weather. Make sure you leave an extra pair of socks at school for our indoor gym time.
- Supply your child's teacher with a new, unopened, LABELED bottle of sunscreen. This must be lotion. We cannot accept aerosol sprays due to licensing regulations. (One per child, please. Siblings in different classrooms cannot share.)
- Sign off on the "walking field trip permission slip." See your teachers for more specific information.

### 2019/2020 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION:

The Play School is proud to have an amazing Before/After School program for our school-agers. We provide transportation to school in the morning as well as picking the children up in the afternoon. Each school will have a specific transportation route for the 2019/2020 school year. If you are going to be needing care for the 2019/2020 school year, please let your director know as we will be planning our routes soon. Thank you!



### "1825 DAYS..."

Between the day children are born and the day they go to kindergarten, there are 1,825 days their brains are soaking up information."

- Early Childhood Colorado

### 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 in August 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.

# spreading **KINDNESS** in the classroom



In March, we began our new Kindness Counts curriculum! The children have all been learning about being a good friend, using kind words, and treating others with respect and love. The Kindness Dinosaur has been making an appearance in our Preschool and PreK classrooms as well. When the teachers see a child being extraordinarily kind to a friend, the child gets to spend time holding onto or sleeping with the Kindness Dinosaur!!



## What's Cooking? Our Lunch Menu



**Monday, April 1:** Chicken Tenders, WG breading, green beans, applesauce, milk  
**Tuesday, April 2:** Turkey Burgers, WG bun, cheese slice, banana, orange slices, milk  
**Wednesday, April 3:** WG Beef Spaghetti, peas, fruit cocktail, milk  
**Thursday, April 4:** Homemade White Chicken Chili, corn, mandarin oranges, cornbread, milk  
**Friday, April 5:** Homemade Meatloaf, buttered bread, steamed carrots, pears, milk  
**Monday, April 8:** Turkey Sausage Pizza, WG crust, Corn, peaches, milk  
**Tuesday, April 9:** Homemade Tator Tot Casserole, baked beans, applesauce, milk  
**Wednesday, April 10:** Cheese Quesadillas, pears, peas, milk  
**Thursday, April 11:** Homemade Chicken Alfredo w/WG pasta, steamed broccoli, pineapple tidbits, milk  
**Friday, April 12:** Chicken Stir Fry w/Brown Rice, stir fry veggies, mandarin oranges, milk  
**Monday, April 15:** Breaded Cod Filet, Asian rice, applesauce, milk  
**Tuesday, April 16:** Grilled Cheeseburger w/WG Bun, cherry tomatoes, lettuce salad w/light ranch, milk  
**Wednesday, April 17:** French Toast Sticks, turkey links, green beans, diced grapes, milk  
**Thursday, April 18:** WG Breaded and Baked Chicken Nuggets, WG roll, corn, diced mangos, milk  
**Friday, April 19:** Homemade Chicken and Rice, brown rice, mixed veggies, pears, milk  
**Monday, April 22:** Ravioli, WG pasta, meat sauce, steamed broccoli, mandarin oranges, milk  
**Tuesday, April 23:** WG Breaded and Baked Chicken Patty w/WG Bun, corn, applesauce, milk  
**Wednesday, April 24:** Homemade Chicken and Noodles, WG noodles, mixed veggies, banana, milk  
**Thursday, April 25:** Homemade Baked Ziti w/WG noodles, peas, grapes, milk  
**Friday, April 26:** WG Breaded and Baked Fish Sticks, mashed sweet potatoes, baked beans, pineapple tidbits, milk  
**Monday, April 29:** Chicken Tenders, WG breading, green beans, applesauce, WG roll, milk

**\*\*WG = Whole Grain (where seen above)**

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

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

## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CORNER!

As a family owned business we know and understand the importance of having a well-balanced day between work, school, and home. We pride ourselves in being dedicated to our Play School families and not just during school hours. If you have ever found yourself struggling with time utility bills, a child with behavioral issues, or just wanting to better yourself as a parent below are a few well-known local resources that could be very beneficial to you! If you would like to know more about these resources or need help attaining information, please see your center director and she will gladly help you and your family!

### Family and Child Resources

- **Hamilton County First Steps** is a family centered, coordinated system dedicated to providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers 0 – 36 months of age with identified special needs, developmental delays or those medically or biologically at-risk for developmental delays. [www.cibaby.com](http://www.cibaby.com)
- **Early Childhood Assessment Team** is a local program designed for children who are almost three years old and need developmental assessment. 317. 984.1653
- **Prevail** is dedicated to serving victims of crime or abuse in Hamilton County. - <http://prevailinc.com>
- **Third Phase Christian Center** is a shelter for women and children it is also a food pantry/donation center for families in need. <http://www.thirdphase.org>
- **The Hamilton County Health Department** can help eligible families with immunizations. <http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org>
- **The Children's Bureau** acts as an advocate for all children and families, focusing on those that are at-risk. They provide a full array of community-based prevention and intervention services and work in partnership with the Department of Child Services and other community organizations statewide. [www.childrens-bureau.org](http://www.childrens-bureau.org)

### Community Resources

- **Good Samaritan Network** is a program designed to help at-risk or underserved families in Hamilton County. GSN's direct services involve emergency or crisis intervention for: housing and utility assistance, food insecurities, car repairs, medical and prescription assistance, as well as educational opportunities for improving individual independence. [Gsnlive.org](http://Gsnlive.org)
- Check your local **Trustees Office** for help with utility bills and for food pantries. <http://noblesville-township-trustee.com/> OR <http://www.claytp.org/> OR <http://www.fallcreek-township-office.com/>
- **St. Vincent de Paul of Noblesville** is a local food pantry and thrift store that can assist families in need. <http://svdpnoblesville.org/>
- **Grace Care Center** is open to extend healing to the local community and the Grace congregation. If your family is need of any supplemental items, please give Grace Care Center a call at 317.848.2722. *The Play Schools are a corporate sponsor of The Grace Care Center.*
- **Hope Family Care Center** is located in Cicero and provides services for uninsured, underinsured, or medically underserved families. 317.984.3444 [www.hopefamilycare.org](http://www.hopefamilycare.org)



## RAINY DAY FUN!

### Budget-Friendly Activities to Keep Your Children Entertained on a Rainy Day



With April Showers around the corner, here are some helpful ideas to beat the rainy-day blues. Thank you, Jenny Wise, for contributing this helpful article for The Play School families.



Despite the Internet taking over most of our entertainment needs, the most natural place for kids to play is outside in nature. However, sometimes the weather prevents outdoor play from happening, and your kids must find ways to enjoy themselves inside. If you can get your kids to have fun while learning something at the same time, then your family has hit the jackpot. Next time there's a rainy day, try one of these budget-friendly activities that checks all the boxes and saves you money.

The Internet has more to offer children than Youtube videos and social media. The greatest thing about the Internet is having access to many resources without having to pay a dime. If you know where to look, you can find endless opportunities for learning and education in the form of fun online activities. That means your children can be online while being productive. Here are three suggestions for free online content that provide fun activities for children:

1. **Exercise Videos** - Since bad weather means that the kids can't reach their physical activity quota outside, try getting them involved in indoor exercise. You can find just about any type of exercise video, from yoga to dance to fun cardio. Just be sure to review the videos first or only use trusted sources.
2. **Brain Games** - When homework is done for the day, keep the mental flow going by engaging your kids in online brain games and puzzles. The National Geographic kids' site has videos, games, and downloadable puzzles to challenge and "give your brain a workout" at no cost.
3. **Art Tutorials** - Bring out your kid's artistic and creative side by taking online drawing lessons. This list recommends websites and video channels for drawing tutorials for all levels. Some cost money, but most of the services are free.

#### Hands-on Activities

Sometimes it's best to unplug and play offline through hands-on activities. Remember the activities you enjoyed as a kid? Why not introduce them to your children too?

1. **LEGOS** - These building blocks are great for more than just keeping idle hands busy. LEGO sets can help kids practice their STEM skills as they learn the ways of engineering. To save money on purchasing these types of toys, check out Amazon promo codes you can put toward affordable sets.
2. **Science Experiments** - All kids love science experiments, even if they don't enjoy science class. Oftentimes, the hands-on experiments are what help kids develop a love for science. Experimentation doesn't require an expensive shopping trip or list of fancy, hard-to-find ingredients. Everything you need for a project like elephant's toothpaste can be found in your pantry at home.
3. **Musical Instruments** - Playing a musical instrument can be very beneficial for a child's learning and development, and what better time to practice than on a rainy day? Whether or not your child takes lessons from a teacher, there's always a way to learn at home by downloading sheet music or using online tutorials.

#### Play Like It's 1989

If you're going to play offline and throwback to your own youth, then try an activity the entire family and neighborhood kids can enjoy together, such as a scavenger hunt or Storytelling Round-Robin. These creative activities encourage kids to work together as a team, which can build social skills. The best part is that you don't need to purchase any supplies; the only things you need are participation and imagination.

As much as we'd all love our kids to be outside playing basketball or riding bikes, sometimes Mother Nature doesn't give them that option. When the time to be stuck inside comes, be sure to have plenty of options ready so your kids are occupied and your sanity is saved. Everything you need to prepare for these moments is at your fingertips.

# Pajamas For PI



**When:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019

**Where:** At all three Playschools

**Why:** The last week of April is World PI Week. To celebrate we are raising money for The Immunodeficiency Foundation. Your child(ren) can wear PJ's to school with a dollar donation.

Ms. Kara, a loved teacher who has been with the playschool for 9 years, has two children both diagnosed with PI. After a long battle with reoccurring illnesses and a stay at Riley Hospital with her son, they finally got a diagnosis. There are thousands of people in the United States alone who suffer with a weak immune system or part of their immune systems missing. Please consider participating and donating to the Spencer Families PI Walk team, Lainey's Krew. Every year, Ms. Kara's family participates in the National Walk for PI (Zebra Walk) in Chicago. This year they are excited to participate in a community walk here in Indianapolis.



## 2019 Pre-K Graduation



Mark your calendars and grab your tissues as Pre-K graduation is just around the corner! Every year the graduating class and their teachers work hard in preparation for their farewell ceremony and program that we put on for the children's families. This adorable event highlights just a few of the many concepts that the children have been working on mastering this past academic year in preparation for kindergarten.

The ceremony starts promptly at 4:30 p.m. so PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 5 MINUTES EARLY as to not interrupt the ceremony in progress. Due to all the support and love the graduates have from family, the ceremony typically becomes standing room only! It is so exciting to us to see all the love and support they have in their lives. After the program, a brief reception with cake and refreshments will be served for the graduates and their families. Loved ones such as siblings and grandparents are welcome. We simply need a firm headcount so please RSVP to your Center Director no later than Wednesday, May 1. We want to make sure we have enough refreshments for everyone attending so please e-mail your Center Director with the number attending in your party.

**Saxony Village: Monday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Legacy: Wednesday, May 15 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Arbor Village: Friday, May 17 at 4:30 p.m.**

## Other Administrative Contacts

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