

The Play School's STAR NEWS

Hours of Operation:
7:00 am - 6:00 pm M-F

September 2020

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Brain Food:

Monthly Basics:

	Numbers:	Letters:	Color:	Shape:	Opposites:	Sign:
Toddlers:	2	A & T	Yellow	Triangle	In/Out	More
Preschool:	3 & 4	Aa & Tt	Yellow	Triangle	In/Out	

Our Young 2's B class at Saxony wrapped up their "All About Me" week with a taste test experiment: When it comes to our five senses the one that can cause the biggest emotions is the sense of taste. The kids were able to say whether they loved the taste, or disliked it. Trying new foods helps support healthy, safe, and nutritious practices.



Yummy!



~PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN FOR OVER 30 YEARS~

Fall sports have kicked into gear and the yellow school buses have finally begun their routes. For many of you, it is starting to sink in that there is precious little time left before your little one goes off to kindergarten. It can be an exciting time for your child and an anxiety-filled time for mom and dad. So many questions: Are they ready? Will they have friends they know?

Do we send them on the bus? Should we go next August or wait one more year? What am I looking for in a preschool program? Rest assured, we have supported families year after year through similar worries, cares, and concerns about their child's preparation for kindergarten.

Preparing children for kindergarten is important work! We honor this great responsibility in everything we do. It starts with making sure our school is comprised of the most loving, educated, and passionate teachers for your child(ren). Here you will not find one lead teacher and an assistant; our preschool teaching teams are comprised of two experienced and highly educated teachers! In our PreK classes, here is what you can expect:

- Two degreed teachers
- Classrooms conducting a kindergarten curriculum
- Letter and number recognition and ability to write all letters and numbers
- Introduction to sight words and many children able to read beginner reader books by graduation
- A low teacher to child ratio of 1:15 (Most classes are 1:12 ratio, in fact.)
- Spanish, Music, PE, Yoga and Dance classes every week
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineer and Math) weaved into daily learning and play experiences

Included below is a chart that highlights the cumulative education of our amazing Play School teachers. We hope that it will give you a tremendous level of comfort that you have chosen the best early education program for your child.

Arbor

Saxony

Legacy

Ms. Hunter (3s) Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education	Ms. Peggy (3s) Childhood Development Associates	Ms. Emily (3s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education
Ms. Megan (3s) Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education	Ms. Renee (3/4s) Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education	Ms. Amy (3s) Associates in Early Childhood Education
Ms. Casey (4s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education	Ms. Vanessa (4s) Childhood Development Associates	Ms. Jordan (3s) Bachelor of Science Degree in Show Production and Touring
Ms. Zin (4s) Associates of Science in Education	Ms. Shar (4s) Childhood Development Associates	Ms. Rachel (4s) Bachelor of Arts in Biology with a concentration in Outdoor Education
Ms. Jackie (PreK 5s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education / Spanish Immersion	Ms. Cassie (5s) Bachelor's in Education	Ms. Sami (4s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education
Ms. Gabi (PreK 5s) Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education /Spanish Immersion	Ms. Kim (5's) Masters in Education	Ms. Anastasia (5s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education
Mr. AJ (PreK 5s) Working towards Elementary Education degree	Ms. Tami (5's) Childhood Development Associates / Associates in Education	Ms. Rosi (5s) Bachelor's in Elementary Education / Spanish Immersion



During this unprecedented time, We want you to know that the Health and Safety of our families and staff are of the utmost importance.

Here is an update of what our protection from Covid looks like:

- First and foremost, Hand-washing is key! Always has been and always will be.
- Our in-house laundry runs all week, every day and all infant bedding, fabric covers and soft items are washed constantly.
- We have a cleaning crew on our premises, they are vetted and part of our Staff.
- Carpet shampooing is part of our routine and not just a quarterly event.
- We have streamlined the temperature taking by installing no-contact infrared forehead thermometers.
- Indoor gym and sensory room are sanitized between classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer is utilized upon entering and exiting common play areas.
- Teachers are using their nap-times to sanitize toys midday and infant and toddler rooms are sanitizing toys constantly.
- We have the children outdoors as much as possible and within reason, weather permitting. We urge outdoor learning; story time under a tree is a dear sight to see Covid or no Covid. Children can learn as much outdoors as indoors we believe! It is a science Lab, an art gallery, lunchroom, a library, symphony hall, theater, and a gymnasium!

We are concerned and care about our teachers. They are hiding their stress and anxiety well. They know we support them and they simply do not come to School if they do not feel well. We have built in subs for this reason. Our directors know that the children come first. Covid testing is widely encouraged and we are and will always be transparent about the health of any person in our building that affects your family personally. Covid bonuses and benefits have been given to our teachers throughout this ordeal. We will continue this process to the end. Our Teachers are essential, Covid or no Covid! ~ Ms. Rita





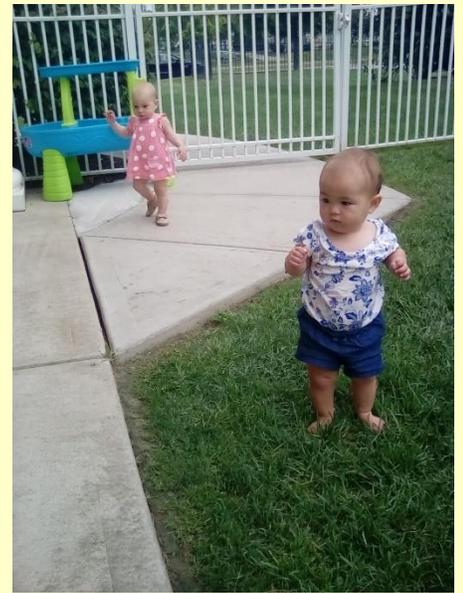
Arbor



★ Legacy ★



★ Saxony ★



Kindness Curriculum

Just as a Star is special and unique, so is each individual child!

The Play School is always working hard to develop and improve the curriculum for our amazing students. Last year, we were excited to develop our kindness curriculum. This year we are continuing this practice by building onto our in house libraries with books and materials on empathy and kindness, respect for one another, why bullying is not tolerated, examples of sharing, celebrating our differences, likenesses, uniqueness and diversity. We are encouraging the kids to be kind to their friends and teachers, in turn, the kids are earning kindness prizes by being extra kind in their classrooms.

Research shows teaching kindness within the curriculum benefits children in a multitude of ways. When kindness is taught, children have an increased level of peer acceptance, feeling of gratitude, higher self-esteem, and their health overall improves as their stress levels are lower. In addition, teachers report less bullying in the classrooms which leads to a greater sense of community and sense of belonging amongst the children. At The Play School, we strive daily to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all of our children. We are excited to use our new kindness curriculum to help and guide the social-emotional needs of all the children as they grow throughout their years with us.



Exciting changes are coming to Arbor Village!

Arbor Village Family Center is under construction. Our best laid plans are to complete construction through May/June 2021, with the hopes of being open for a exciting Summer Club June 2021. New construction will include a new Preschool 3's, 4's, 5's and BK's Club classroom + a kids cooking kitchen + a full size gymnasium.



Helpful Hints and Tips

WHY IS MY CHILD BITING?

Biting is a typical behavior often seen in infants, toddlers, and 2-year olds. As children mature, gain self-control, and develop problem-solving skills, they usually outgrow this behavior. While not uncommon, biting can be an upsetting and potentially harmful behavior. A child might bite to:

- Relieve pain from teething
- Explore cause and effect (“What happens when I bite?”).
- Experience the sensation of biting.
- Satisfy a need for oral-motor stimulation.
- Imitate other children and adults.
- Feel strong and in control.
- Get attention.
- Act in self-defense.
- Communicate needs and desires, such as hunger or fatigue.
- Communicate or express difficult feelings, such as frustration, anger, confusion, or fear.

There are a variety of things that families can do to prevent biting. It helps to:

- Have age-appropriate expectations for your child’s behavior based on his or her current skills and abilities.
- Make sure your child’s schedule, routines, and transitions are predictable and consistent. At meal and bedtimes, try to do things in the same way and at the same times. Young children thrive when they know what will happen next.
- Offer activities and materials that allow your child to relax and release tension. Some children like yoga or deep breathing. Offer playdough, foam balls, bubbles, soft music, and other stress-reducing items.
- Use positive guidance strategies to help your child develop self-control.
- Provide items to bite, such as teething rings or clean, wet, cold washcloths stored in the refrigerator. This helps children learn what they can bite safely, without hurting anyone else.

POTTY TRAINING 101

This is the first installation of POTTY TRAINING: TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS.

Persuading a toddler to first sit on the potty is no small task. Some are scared, some get mad, and others are just not interested. At The Play School, we use peer modeling to our advantage. At home, you don’t have a row of toddlers to exert peer pressure, but you can employ an older sibling, cousin, or friend to demonstrate the joy of using the toilet. Flushing the toilet or pulling off toilet paper further helps kids feel in control of the world of the bathroom. If the child refuses to give it a try, the teachers just shrug it off — and then they offer again a few hours later. They offer the next day and next day and the day after that. If the child refuses, we don’t push it, but we ask consistently. Utilize that stash of potty books to help your child get comfortable with the idea. And when you get a defiant, “No,” to your bathroom offers, try to conceal your frustration. Just keep offering. Start changing your child’s diaper in the bathroom. Suggest incremental tasks, such as pulling up and down pants, tearing off toilet paper, and flushing. When your child does finally give it a shot, show him/her you’re happy and excited, even if your child doesn’t “go.” Good luck to all you potty trainers!



Shout out to all of our Wonderful Play School Families for your Loving Support, Grace, Trust and Acting Responsibly During these Historic Times.

Saxony would like to send a big "THANK YOU" to the Cornewell family. Justin, Alyssa and Miles have been so supportive and especially during the past few months and during our Covid quandary ~

They have provided snacks, treats and a luncheon from Aspen Creek for the staff ~ made donations to our bike/trike fundraiser and are always coming and going with nothing but kind words and gratitude for all that we are and have been doing to keep the staff, children and their families safe, happy and healthy.



The Play School at Legacy would like to give a huge shout out to the Barr family for all their help and expertise as we navigated through the complexities of the eLearning process. Thank you so very much for your educational and IT advice during this time. Your patience, grace and kindness has gone above and beyond anything we could have asked for.

2020-2021 School Closures



9/7/2020 Labor Day

11/26/2020 Thanksgiving

11/27/2020 Thanksgiving

12/24/2020 Christmas Eve

12/25/2020 Christmas Day

12/31/2020 New Year's Eve (3pm)

1/1/2021 New Year's Day

1/18/2021 Martin Luther King Day

5/31/2021 Memorial Day

7/5/2021 July 4th

9/6/2021 Labor Day

11/25/2021 Thanksgiving

11/26/2021 Thanksgiving

12/24/2021 Christmas Eve

12/31/2021 New Years Eve

02/15/2021 President's Day - Professional
Development Day

(All Tuition remains the same)

Upcoming Events



Annual Boo Bash Class Parties!

We will hold our annual Boo Bash Costume Parties on Friday, October 30th. Sign-up sheets will be posted on classroom doors for ways that you can help add to the fun. As always, donations are not required but always appreciated. Please send your child to school in costume. The teachers will change children out of their costume before lunch. We will have a costume parade in the morning that each classroom will participate in. They will trick-or-treat room to room for special treats and prizes. Please ... no Halloween masks, weapons, or anything that will scare our youngest trick-or-treaters. We want everyone to enjoy this fun and special day. Adorable pictures to follow!



VACATION CREDITS

The Play Schools generously offer our families two weeks of "tuition free vacation time" annually, from August to August. These credits cannot be used toward a two-week notice. "In the past months we have given additional grace during the peak COVID time. We are certain that if needed we will respond in a similar way if conditions return. We will work with all our families during these unprecedented times. We ask you to trust us as we will be as fair as we can be." -Ms. Rita



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