

Ludington Area Schools Early Childhood Center



September 2023

Thank You!

The first month was a success! I appreciate your patience with our drop off and pick up procedures and hope the initial shock has waned. It has been wonderful getting to know your children this past month and we are looking forward to the months ahead! Our parent-teacher conferences are coming up, be sure to keep a look out for more information next week.

I also want to take a minute to say thank you! Did you know, research shows that 90% of your child's brain development happens before the age of 5? Your child's early learning experience is the foundation for lifelong learning and we are committed to providing a high-quality preschool experience for your young learner. Your family had choices when it came to deciding on your early learning experiences and we appreciate you entrusting us to provide those experiences.

In an effort to keep an open line of communication throughout the year, please know you can call or e-mail me directly if you have a question, concern, comment, or idea. I would love to hear from you!

~Ashela Trevino, Preschool Director

Upcoming Events

October 2nd & October 3rd

Picture Day

October 11th

Parent Teacher Committee Meeting
7pm in LES Cafeteria. All are welcome!

October 18th

Half Day for Students
Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 19th

Half Day for Students
Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 30th

Glow Walk. Details to follow.



FUN FACT: From birth to 5 years old your child's brain makes one million neuron connections every second when activated!

A Note from Miss Trish:

Welcome back for another exciting year in preschool. Just to briefly introduce myself, I am Trish Hanlon, School Social Worker with the West Shore ESD. Many of the children may know me as "Miss Trish". I provide classroom, building, and student support to several preschools in the area and I am excited about the year ahead. I will be offering a few social-emotional or behavior tips in this newsletter as the school year progresses.



If you ever have any questions, please feel free to leave a message with the school and I will be more than happy to contact you. As we kick off the school year, it is important to remember that preschool children require about 10 to 15 hours of sleep at night even if they still have rest time during the school day. Some tips on getting a good night's sleep: Develop a regular sleep schedule so that children are in bed at the same time every night. Maintain a consistent night time routine. This may involve establishing a soothing sleep environment and establishing clear limits for those children who want to stall with "just one more book, please."

Have a wonderful year!
Trish Hanlon, LMSW



Early Learning Tip of the Month:
"Reading children's stories with funny voices and gestures is an excellent way to introduce your child to language. Setting aside time to read books is also great for strengthening your relationship. You can talk about emotions, characters, and actions as you move through the story together." -NDFAuthors

Communication Corner

SPEECH VS. LANGUAGE

What's the difference?

THIS IS LANGUAGE

Expressive Language

- Expressing thoughts, wants and needs in age appropriate complete sentences.
- Using specific vocabulary words.
- Telling sequential stories

Receptive Language

- Understanding spoken language, directions, and basic concepts.
- Understanding story elements and questions about a story.
- Making inferences

THIS IS SPEECH

Articulation

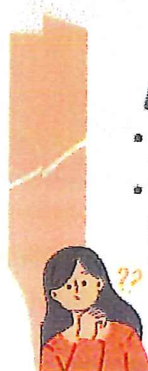
- Producing speech sounds correctly.
- Speaking clearly, and being intelligible to others.

Voice

- Using a voice that doesn't sound raspy or nasal.
- Using a volume that isn't too loud or too soft.

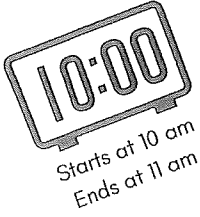
Stuttering

- Speaking smoothly without hesitating, stopping, or repeating sounds, words, or phrases.



PLAY & LEARN

SAVE THE DATE



MASON, LAKE, & OCEANA

THE RIVER COMMUNITY CENTER

9791 S M-37 BALDWIN, MI 49304

Play and Learn Groups offer **FREE**, fun, interactive activities for families to enjoy with their children ages birth to age 5 (older siblings welcome).

Play & Learn Dates:

09/27/2023 - PLAY & LEARN - 10AM

10/11/2023 - PLAY & LEARN - 10AM

10/25/2023 - PLAY & LEARN - 10AM

11/08/2023 - PLAY & LEARN - 10AM

11/29/2023 - PLAY & LEARN - 10AM

12/13/2023 - PLAY & LEARN - 10AM



Playgroups at The River Community Center will engage children and families in fun and interactive learning and play activities following the "Talk, Read, Sing" and "InspiREading" early learning principles for children Birth to Age 5.



Building Partnerships with Your Child's Teacher

Derry Koralek, Karen Nemeth, and Kelly Ramsey



Children's first and most important teachers are the family members who keep them safe and nurture their development. When a child enters an early learning program, the partnership between families and educators ensures that the experience is comforting and successful for all. In high-quality programs, leaders and teachers strive for respectful, reciprocal communication with families. They communicate clearly and regularly with families; they also seek information from families in various ways.

Here are some ways you can communicate with your child's teacher or program leader to create and maintain a great relationship.

- 1. Look for opportunities to communicate early on.** Your child's first weeks at an early learning program are filled with activities. This is true whether they have attended a program for a long time or are brand-new. While there's a lot of information to take in, this is also a good time to ask questions about the program and your child's teachers. Carefully review any information the program shares—whether it's via email, on a secure website, or through papers sent home. If you have questions or need any clarification, ask.
- 2. Share information about your child.** This includes their skills, preferences, interests, experiences, and needs. Update this information regularly. The more teachers understand what makes your child unique, the more they can meet their needs, encourage progress, and celebrate accomplishments every day.
- 3. Look beyond the questionnaire.** Programs often ask families to fill out a questionnaire about their children. While this is valuable, consider sharing information in additional ways. These could include videos or audio recordings of your child playing, singing a song, or having a conversation. You also might teach program staff useful and comforting words in your home language to make communication with your child easier.
- 4. Communicate information about home.** Let educators know if something unusual or stressful is happening in your child's life. This might include a move, a change in the family's typical schedule, an upsetting event, or a challenging behavior on the way to school. Likewise, share changes in your child's development or behavior, such as a new sleep pattern or a new fine or large motor ability.
- 5. Voice your questions and concerns.** You know your child best. When you have a question or concern about them or their experience in the program, reach out to program staff to talk about it.
- 6. Let teachers know how you want to communicate.** Tell them which language you prefer and how you like to get information—whether it's via phone, text, email, paper, or a combination.
- 7. Be responsive.** Call the program to let them know if your child will be late or absent, and respond to communication as needed.

Remember that you and your child's teachers are partners in supporting your child's early education and well-being. The more teachers know about your child, the better they can support play, learning, and development. Likewise, the more that you know about how your child is spending their day, the better you can support learning at home.

This piece is adapted from "Building a Partnership with Your Child's Teacher," by the authors, on NAEYC's For Families site, [NAEYC.org/teacher-partnerships](https://naeyc.org/teacher-partnerships). The authors also have written *Families & Educators Together: Building Great Relationships that Support Young Children*, which was published by NAEYC in 2019.