



## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

### SEPTEMBER 2022 262ND EDITION

From the Director . . .

Welcome to our new COF families! We are so glad that you joined us. There are a few new faces between the hallway and our after-school program. Please help us in making them feel at home here.

A few back to school reminders from our handbook so we start the year off right:

- "LATE PICK-UP FEE – Parents are expected to promptly pick up their child at the contracted time. Staffing patterns are based on these contracted times. When they are abused, we risk being out of ratio. This could adversely affect our license. More importantly, over ratios could lead to unsafe conditions for all children. This is monitored very closely. Some centers require a \$1 per minute late fee. We will assess a fee of \$10 per 15 minutes for late pick-ups. This LATE PICK-UP FEE will be enforced if you are late picking up an ill child. (After the 30 minute window) Those needing a 5:30pm pick up time **MUST** be on time. The center closes promptly at 5:30pm."
- "All vehicle engines must be turned **off** when dropping off or picking up children."

As mentioned last month, we will be doing our September Parent/Teacher meeting via Zoom. This will take place on September 8th at 6:15pm. I will be going over our Emergency Plan and the staff will be there for any classroom specific questions. I will be sending out the zoom link prior to the meeting. I would like to request that any families who plan to attend and who have any questions they already know they'd like addressed, please submit any questions you have via email by Tuesday, September 6th.

**Picture Day Reminder:** We will be doing our Fall Picture Day with Gillian Hench and Lil' Angels Photography on **Thursday, September 29th**. For our new families, Miss Gil will photograph each child individually and also do siblings together. Ordering photos is completely optional and she provides a paper order form as well as online ordering options.



### **MANNERS MATTER**

9/05/22 - Do not interrupt a conversation, Raise your hand to ask/answer a question

9/12/22 - Follow the specific classroom rules

9/19/22 - When walking in a line, keep your arms at your sides and move quietly

9/26/22 - Always say thank you when you are given something

### **THEMES:**

- Family & Friends
- Apples
- Fabulous Fall
- People's Jobs

### **Staff Birthday**

Sept. 11th - Miss Jennie

Sept. 12th - Miss Cathy

## **Special Events: Mark your calendars!!**

September 5th - CLOSED for Labor Day

September 29th - Fall Picture Day

October 10th- CLOSED for Columbus Day (In-Service day for staff)

October 27th - Halloween Parade

## **MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS**



Welcome to almost Fall! We've said goodbye to our last four one-year-olds. Cooper, Peyton, Georgia and Mahina have joined the young toddler room. Ruth , 8 months, just joined us and her sister, Jane has joined the Older Toddler room. Three more friends will be starting with us later this year. Lacey is our oldest now with Teddy a very close second. They will both be 1 in October. Noelle will be 1 in January and Conrad 1 in February. A very nice group!

Miss Jill and I have been busy going through toys and making plans for a fun and exciting learning experience for all our friends. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please reach out in person or leave a note in your child's blue folder. We check them every day and you will hear back from us right away. If you need to speak to us during the day please reach out to Miss Courtney and she will get your message to us.

Just a few reminders to all - please label everything you bring into the Center for your child. EVERYTHING. Label bottles and lids. Food containers and lids, etc. If some item has several pieces, label all the pieces. The car seat too.

Please read and follow the updated illness policies. Keeping all of us as healthy as possible is the goal. Please follow your individual drop off and pick up times. Your child may be here for all, some, or none of your contracted time, but they may not arrive before your time or be picked up later than your time. This affects the child/teacher ratios and also tends to disrupt schedules. We work with children here because we choose to and believe we can help them as well as their parents navigate this time in their lives. Please talk to us about what is important to your family, and we will make every effort to include it in your child's day. We will share information about your child's day, and we ask that you share any information about your child that can impact their day when you drop them off. Knowing about changes in sleeping, eating, or to their routine helps us to understand what we can do to help them be comfortable throughout the day!

# MISS AMY AND MISS SARAH'S YOUNG TODDLERS



Hello families, and Welcome to the Young Toddler room! We hope everyone had a great summer and looking forward to a new school year. We are so excited to start another year, as we welcome our new friends to the class. All of the children have been doing a great job. Transitions can be tough, and they take time, but it is all about repetition. The kids have been adjusting very well to the daily routine.

To start off, during the month of September, we will be learning about a few fun themes relating to Fall: Family and Homes, Apples, Fabulous Fall and People's Jobs. We will also be starting back up with "Star of the Month", so be on the lookout when it is your child's turn!

A few reminders as we start a New year: Please make sure all of your child's items brought into school are LABELED. These items include book bag, lunch box, utensils, cups, containers, and nap items. This will be a huge help, and avoid any type of confusion, especially if there happens to be a substitute who may be unsure where things go, or what items belong to which child. Also, make sure you are checking your child's BLUE folder out in the hallway Every night. That is the Best means of communication.

We look forward to working with all of you and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank You!

Miss Amy and Miss Sarah

# MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

## Focuses

Red

Square

Aware of classroom routine

Walking/running avoiding obstacles

Build a tower of 6-7 blocks

Learning to share with others

Saying please and thank you

God loves us



Hello older toddler families and welcome to the new school year! We are both excited to be back with some familiar faces joining our room and one friend who is new to the center (Jane). Jane has a little sister (Ruth) who is in our baby room. Welcome to both the girls and their family! We look forward to working with you all to make this new transition to the older toddler room as smooth as possible. We just have a few reminders to go over quick. Please be sure to LABEL everything that is brought in to the center. Lunch bags ( on the outside would be helpful ) utensils, cups, containers, nap items, show and tell items, backpacks, diapers, wipes etc.. with 10 of everything you can imagine how hectic times can be so your help is much appreciated. We not only do this for our sanity and to make sure you child has what they need but, Debbie and I may not be here a day and if we have a substitute come in it is helpful for them too. Please be sure to check your child's blue folder every day as well.

Some themes we will be talking about this month are Family and homes, Apples, Fabulous Fall and Occupation's. For each theme we have books to read related to the theme and a fun craft/activity planned. Some weeks we may ask for your child to bring in a special item for that week so please be sure to read your daily papers.

Starting next month and for the rest of the school year we will feature a friend of the month in our newsletter. You never know what your kiddo might have to say so be sure to read our newsletter!

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to ask. We might not have all the answers but between Debbie and I we have 35+ years of experience in childcare so we'll do our best to give you any help you might need. We pray everyone stays healthy and we look forward to a fun year ahead with your kiddos!!

# MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL



## Focuses

Mental – Letters A, B, and C / color red / number 1 / circle shape

Physical – Walking in a line / recognizing body parts and moving them to teacher given directions

Emotional – Everyone is important

Social- Adjusting to a new class

Spiritual – Creation story / Noah and the ark / Abraham and Sarah / Isaac and Rebekah

Greetings and welcome to preschool!

I hope that everyone is ready to start letter recognition, self –portrait drawing and show and tell!

I will be introducing approximately three letters a month between now and the beginning of June. Please pay attention to the show and tell theme, that you will see written on your child's weekly fridge calendar. The show and tell theme will, mostly, coincide with the letter that we are being introduced to during the week. There will also be few letter review weeks.

We will begin to draw our monthly self-portraits in September! Each month the children will draw a portrait of themselves. At the end of the school year, we will be making a booklet of all of the children's portraits throughout the past months. It is amazing and exciting to be able to see the progression that they make between September and May!

If you have not already done so, please take the time to carefully read your child's preschool welcome letter. This way it will help both you and your child to be prepared for the school year.

In the middle of September, we will be making a special apple snack, during our apple themed week. If you are interested in donating an ingredient for our apple snack, please keep an eye out. A sign- up sheet, for donations, will be posted on our hallway bulletin board closer to the time.

A reminder to please be aware of your child's contracted pick-up times. All of the children in your family should be signed out and in your care, by your children's chosen departure time.

Our star of the month for September is Madison! Maddie's favorite color is pink and she likes to eat Chex mix! Maddie's likes to read about turtles and sing the duck song. Her favorite activity is playing with elephants!

Have a great month!



# MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Hello from Prek, and welcome to the children and families of the Circle of Friends Class of 2023! I am looking forward to a wonderful, fun-filled year.

First, let me remind you that your child should wear sneakers to school every day. Please save sandals, boots, and dressy shoes for another time. In winter, please have your child change from snow boots to sneakers before entering the classroom. Sneakers are the safest footwear for your child; children not wearing sneakers may not be able to participate in some activities, such as playground climbers. Additionally, please be sure girls are wearing shorts, pants, or leggings under dresses and skirts, for modesty.

Your child will be receiving two different magazines throughout the year. Weekly Reader's "Let's Find Out" issues will cover science, social studies, and social/emotional topics, while Science Spin goes in-depth to science and scientists. These popular magazines are used to strengthen learning within the 52 themes that the children of our center study each year.

We are a Christian-based center ; in my classroom, your child will memorize 26 Bible verse, one for each letter of the alphabet. This is a long-standing tradition of our school. The Bible verses will be presented as part of our graduation celebration! We also learn about a different Bible story each week, moving chronologically through the Bible beginning with the story of Noah ( the Creation story is one of our spring themes). We will jump to the New Testament at Advent and through Christmas and Easter, learning about the life of Jesus and the early Church. We'll then go back to the Old Testament to finish out the school year. Note: the Bible stories and Bible memory verses do not align!

Along with our themes and Christian education, we will be focusing on self-help skills. It is very important that these skills be practiced at home, as well. The goal is to send our children off to kindergarten ready to tackle the world! Mastering self-help skills builds confidence and creates a sense of pride in accomplishment.

With this in mind, I will offer suggestions each month for you to try at home. First of all, have your child be responsible for his or her own belongings. Your child should place their own lunchbox on the appropriate shelf in the lobby each morning. He or she should remove and hang their jacket on their hallway hook. They should be responsible for carrying their own backpacks and other items out to the car at pick-up. You get the idea! Also, children should be walking on their own, not being carried. Remember, we're getting ready for kindergarten!

This is a great time of year, still summer-like but not too hot. Enjoy!

Until next time, Miss Cathy