



Stargazer

Back to School Issue

September 2025



The staff at Celebration Preschool extends a warm welcome to our preschoolers and their families. Thanks for attending "Back to School Night" and our parent-teacher conferences. We hope you found them informative and helpful.

The children had a great first week making new friends and learning our routines. We are looking forward to a great year of fun and learning.



Periodically throughout the year you will receive Scholastic Book Club flyers. All orders and payments are made online. See this month's flyers in your child's school bag for more information. The preschool earns free books for our classroom libraries through the book club and book fair. Please place your order by Friday, September 26th. Thanks for your support.



Celebration has always been blessed with a wonderful staff and this year is no exception. Thank you, teachers, for all you do!

Caterpillars: Brenda Shapbell

Assistant: Leah Tecson

Bumblebees: Jolene Battaglia

Assistant: Jenn Doody

Butterflies: Lauren Slimon

Assistant: Bo Youn

Fireflies: Heather Herndon

Assistant: Lauren Balderston

Dragonflies: Carolyn Brodie

Assistant: Jill Atchison



We still have a few openings left in the PM Dragonfly class and one opening in the M/W/F Butterfly class. If you know of anyone who is still looking for a preschool, please tell them to give us a call.



Be sure that your child's clothing is comfortable, washable, and allows for self-dressing. Since children play outside and they often do "messy" art projects, it is advised to dress them appropriately. Although smocks are worn for certain projects, they do not always do the job.

When dressing your child for school it is important that children be able to manage their own clothing for toileting purposes. If your child has just recently learned to use the bathroom you may want to avoid clothing, including overalls, that have snaps, zippers, and belts since they tend to be difficult for a young preschooler to manage.

As cooler temperatures approach you will need to send in hats and mittens as we go outside as long as the feel like temperature is about 32 degrees. **To help your child stay safe at school make sure he/she wears shoes that fit properly and either tie or Velcro. They are less likely to cause accidents than floppy shoes like sandals, clogs, or crocs. Also be sure that they wear socks. If not, they spend their whole playground time emptying mulch from their shoes.**



Fall Festival

As you know Celebration Preschool is a non-profit preschool. To keep our tuition cost at a minimal we do provide opportunities throughout the school year for you to support your child's preschool through fundraising. One of our biggest fundraising efforts is our annual fall festival. This year's fall festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM. This is a fun event that includes carnival games, a bake sale, home based business vendors, food, and lots more. So, save the date and tell all your friends. More information will be coming home soon.

Better Behavior

As your child grows up, it's natural for him to challenge you. Sometimes, it seems easier to just let him have his way. But all children need limits, and they need parents to guide them.

Discipline works best with a balance of love, respect, clearly defined rules, and understanding. Here are some secrets of effective discipline.

Make the rules clear

Your child will behave better when he knows what to expect. Talk about family rules, explaining the consequences clearly. For example, for a rule such as "Take care of belongings," you might tell your child that if he leaves his bike out, he doesn't get to ride it the next day. As he learns to read, write down the rules and put them on the refrigerator as a reminder.

Be consistent and firm

You can expect your child to "test" the rules from time to time. When he does, try to stand your ground and apply the set consequences. Being firm and consistent lets him know that you mean what you say.

Give positive feedback

Focus more on what your child does right than on what he does wrong. This will encourage him to try even harder to behave. When you see the behavior you want repeated, let him know. Example: "I like how you cleaned up your toys."



Do you shop at Harris Teeter and have a VIC card? If so, you can help Celebration Preschool earn money through their "Together in Education" program. The next time you check out tell the cashier that you want Celebration Preschool linked to your VIC card. Our account number is 7207. You can also register your card at harristeeter.com. Click on to SERVICES. You must relink your card every year. Every time you purchase Harris Teeter brand products our school will receive 5% of the sale. If you have more than one school that you want to support, they will distribute the funds equally. Please tell your friends and family who might not have children in school. This program works at any Harris Teeter no matter where you live. Thanks for your support!

A Smooth Beginning



A new school year brings lots of excitement - and a little uncertainty. Knowing what to expect can reassure your child as she gets used to her new teachers, classroom, and routine. Here are a few ideas that might help send her off smiling and ready to learn.

- **Make a book**

Ask your child to draw several pictures of her school (teachers, friends, classroom, playground). Staple the drawings together to make a book and help her label each one ("Miss Brenda"). Then, read her book together to make her feel more comfortable at school. You may have to draw the pictures for the younger children.

- **Talk about worries**

Give your child the chance to ask questions and talk about her concerns. *Examples:* "What do I do if I get sick in school?" "What if I don't make friends?" Let her know that she can always ask the teachers for help.

- **Start a good-bye ritual**

Saying good-bye the same way each day will help your child feel secure. For one idea, read *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn. Like the mother raccoon in the story, place a kiss in your child's hand for her to carry all day. Or make your own ritual. Try a combination of high fives, knuckle bumps, handshakes, and hugs.

Tip: Speak positively about school in front of your child: "You are going to have so much fun." "You will learn about letters and numbers, and you get to play with your friends." Your attitude will be contagious!



Our first chapel service will be on Wednesday, October 8th at 9:15 AM for the Bumblebees and M/W/F Butterflies. The Caterpillars, T/TH Butterflies, AM Dragonflies and Fireflies will attend chapel on Thursday, October 9th at 9:15 AM and the PM Dragonflies will attend at 1:00 PM. Chapel is held in the sanctuary.

During chapel, the children will learn special Bible songs and will hear a special Bible story.

PLEASE NOTE THE DRAGONFLIES ARE ATTENDING ON THURSDAY JUST FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. TYPICALLY, THEY ATTEND ON WEDNESDAYS.

Is it Developmentally Appropriate?

When planning classroom curriculum for young children, it is important to factor in the wide spectrum of abilities and interests of children, as well as activities that are based on the way in which we know children learn. As more and more research becomes available on brain development, we, as early childhood professionals, respond by changing and evolving in how we work with children, and in our approaches to best assist them in reaching their full potentials - cognitively, socially, physically, and emotionally. "Developmentally Appropriate Practice" is more about doing things **better** - not "right" or "wrong."