



ECDEC/FIND News

NOVEMBER 2021

What's different in ECDEC preschool this year? 2021 has asked us all to make changes in order to keep those we love and care for safe. Schools have also made changes for those same reasons, therefore all staff and children are required to wear masks. We have talked a lot about the health and safety procedures that are being used in classrooms with your children. What has not been talked about is what does preschool look like in your child's classroom?

- **We play safely.** - ECDEC encourages learning through play. Research tells us that children learn best through play, so your child has an hour of play every day. Your child continues to wash his/her hands regularly, wear masks and maintain our classroom family pods-tracking and limiting who plays with us in the classroom. Every child has their own cubby or locker for their coat/backpacks as well.
- **We created a community** -- We spent the first 6 weeks of school creating our school family. Every class begins its day with the Brain Smart Start. There is a welcome song to unite us, a breathing activity to help us relax, a loving ritual to connect us, and a commitment to keep each other safe every day. We wish each other well and send well wishes to the friends who are not in school with us. By creating a school family every child has become invested in the learning community and works hard to follow the rules we have put in place to be safe. As we say: We take care of ourselves, we take care of each other, and we take care of our classroom.
- **We encouraged independence** -- We have created social stories about why we wear masks and social distance; created rules together on how to keep our school family safe; used pictures to help our friends understand what our day will look like. We have classrooms jobs and help assist each other when putting toys and materials away. This helps the children build confidence; let them see that they do have control in these uncertain times; helps them to take care of themselves, their friends and their classroom.
- **And We Get Ready For Kindergarten** -- Teaching teams are still using the Early Learning Scale (ELS) to help us plan our day. We use this information to create lessons that meet the needs of each child within the class. We do a lot of small group work (Focused Sign in) where the teaching team provides each child with open ended play items, allowing them to create and use their imaginations! Through Focused Sign –In , ECDEC students explore Math, Science, Literacy/Writing, and Social Emotional curriculum safely. We ask a lot of questions during this time to encourage our students to play with purpose, to think about what they are doing, and to discover the answers. ECDEC Preschool has returned to a typical learning day. We assure you that we will continue to work on maintaining a classroom environment that is safe and fun to learn in.



Did You know?

Daylight Savings Time ended on

November 7th, 2021

Did you remember to turn your clocks back one hour?

Be A Voice

PAC Meeting

November 9th from
6:00-7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Most Parent/Teacher Conferences are being held in November. More information is in this newsletter.

Please plan on attending.

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Please visit our website at
www.ecdec.org

2021 Family Reading Night

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Illinois annual family reading night is sponsored by Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian. The event encourages families to read as a group to reinforce the importance of building literacy skills at a young age, but also to build family bonds.

Some libraries will coordinate community-wide reading efforts, but families are encouraged to spend the night reading together. The theme this year is :

“Reading Colors Your World”

Below are listed your local libraries and phone numbers. Please contact them regarding any activities they may be having on November 18th!

Palatine Public Library (847) 358-8851

Rolling Mdws. Library (847) 259-6050

Arlington Heights Library (847)-392-0100

Mt. Prospect Library (847) 253-5675

River Trails Library (847)-459-4100

READ

Watercolor Wonders

Here's a fun way to make watercolors to paint with for your child!!

What you need:

- 2 Tablespoons baking soda
- 2 Tablespoons flour
- 2 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 packet dry unsweetened drink mix (any flavor) to make 2 quarts.
- 2 Tablespoons of water

What to do:

- 1.Mix dry ingredients in a bowl.
2. Add water and stir until fizzing stops (Different flavors will give you different colors.)
3. For more color add a few drops of food coloring.
- 4.Kids should paint with them right away or pour into jar lids or plastic trays to let harden for another time.



Parent Advisory Council Meeting:

On Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. ECDEC will be hosting our PAC meeting. We encourage you to join us remotely via Zoom. This meeting will be an opportunity for you to ask questions or state concerns to our director Kristen Ford and discuss ideas/topics for future meetings. *We want to know what is important to you and what you would like to hear about at future meetings.* If you missed our first meeting in September please consider joining us. Some Teachers, Program Administrators and staff along with other parents will be present at the meeting to provide support and answer any questions or concerns. We hope to see you at our virtual meeting through via Zoom.

Parent/Teacher Conference:

Parent-Teacher conferences are being held this month. If your child has been in school for six weeks you will be invited to have a conference with the teacher. Teachers will be reaching out to you to schedule. If your child has not been in school for six weeks but you would like a conference, please know that your teacher will be happy to speak to you regarding your child at your request!



FIND/ECDEC Lending Libraries:

Our toy lending libraries are now ***open by appointment only*** to insure social distancing. Call (847) 963-1214 to schedule an appointment. There are a variety of books, puzzles, toys, puppets and games etc. for you and your child to enjoy. Each library location has age appropriate items from Birth to 5 years old.

CRC (formerly POC): 1585 N. Rand Rd. Palatine, IL 60074

Tuesday-12 pm-2:00 pm

Thursday 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Edgebrook Community Center: 1926 Green Ln. #1B Palatine, IL 60074

Fridays- 12:0 pm—1:30pm

EPNRC/East Apartments: 2270 Algonquin Parkway Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Wednesday 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Thursdays- 12:30 pm-2:00 pm

Conscious Discipline Tools:

Along with the Pyramid, which is our social-emotional curriculum that your child is learning for his/her emotional growth, we also combine Conscious Discipline tools to teach your child. You may already be familiar with some that your child has been singing with his/her teacher. For example: the “We Wish You Well” song is being used by many of the ECDEC teachers as their opening circle song. Below is a familiar song to many children: “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”, however the words have been changed and movements added in order for you to participate with your child. The importance of doing the “I Love You Rituals” with your child is that it becomes a calming source for many in stressful situations. It also provides the tools to help your child accept change, become more focused and cooperative but more importantly help you find a way to connect with him/her during these very busy times!

Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

Hold child's hands up high, touch fingers and twinkle

What a wonderful child you are!

Bring arms down to rest on each other's shoulders

With bright eyes and nice round cheeks,

Touch near child's eyes and cheeks

Talented person from head to feet.

Swing child's arms up to his head and down to his feet

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,

Twinkle fingers together again

