

Letter to Caregivers

Dear Families and Caregivers,

I am so excited to welcome you into our class community this year. Each year it is so exciting to discover and learn about each of your children. I look forward to partnering with you on this journey.

I want to start by telling you a little about myself... *(share whatever information you feel comfortable with communicating to families- this could be beliefs about children and learning, about your family, about your own learning journey)*

I also want to share a little bit about our classroom because it may be different from what you are used to from your own childhood, or if you have older children. Our classroom focuses on twenty-first century skills, right along with academics. What are twenty first century skills? They are things like problem solving, resilience, collaboration, and curiosity. These skills are essential for navigating our changing and challenging world.

Certain practices, like worksheets and workbooks, may help build some academic skills, but they do not help children with those other, equally important skills. This is why we have time every day for problem solving and exploration. We call this time *(work choice, explore time, center time, etc)*. Your children will most often describe this time of day as “play”. As a matter of fact, your children may reply that they “played all day” when you asked them what happened at school.

This is a good sign! In our *(work choice, explore time, etc)* children are working on academic learning in open ended exploratory ways so it feels like they are playing. There are always goals and teaching at this time, but children are often so caught up in the work, they experience it as a playful, joyful time. If you want to learn more about the research that supports this, I am always happy to share resources.

We will also be doing all sorts of amazing work like *(share some of the big curricular/developmental milestones children will touch on this year)* but it is often the time spent exploring that they will want to share with you.

Thank you so much for entrusting me with your child this year, and I look forward to all we discover and learn together.

Warmly,

Resource Links

These are our preferred resources to share with families, if you have others let us know and we can add them.

Thank you!

[PDF on Why No Worksheets in PK/TK?](#)

[Article on Value of Free Play v. Guided Play](#)

[Summary of the Research that Supports Guided Play](#)