

# Mrs. Leiker's Classroom

Preschool A

October 2019



## From the Teacher's Desk

September was a very busy month in Preschool A. As it is understood in the early learning community, children learn best when they feel safe, comfortable, and connected. To that end, I focus the first month of the school year on getting acquainted with your children and inviting them to know me, creating time and space for them to get to know each other, and easing them into the environment that is their classroom. We are now almost 6 weeks into the year, and they know the routine, know where to find things, and are developing an understanding of our class as a community.

In the pre-kindergarten year, there is a big shift from simply "who am I?" to "how do I fit in?" and "how can/do I contribute?" Problem-solving is the order of the day, and we will be doing so in all areas of our day, from math and creative expression to our social development. Problem solving, critical thinking, healthy social-emotional development, and self-help skills are a preschooler's most important work. Everything else is secondary!

Together we developed our "Ways of Being Together." (Otherwise known as Classroom Rules). These can be found posted in our classroom. I have also posted them in this newsletter. We refer to these when we are discussing the choices we make in the classroom. If a child behaves in a way that is unfavorable, we discuss the behavior and whether it fits into how we want to be together. This informs them of the how and why of their choices and the effect they have on the community. Children are reactive beings, and do not make poor choices intentionally. They do what works, and it is my job to begin the work of teaching them to slow down and make more responsive and intentional decisions. We have a lot of discussion throughout the day!! I can already see the lightbulb burning brighter. These skills will carry them far in life.

Now that we have developed a good foundation, we will dive into more focused themed areas. You can find these here in this newsletter. You can also refer to the lesson plan posted on the Parent Board in the classroom.

I am so enjoying your children. Thank you for entrusting them to my care!

Mrs. Leiker

Themes of the month:

**Fall: Apples, Pumpkins, Signs of the Season, Spiders, and Halloween**

Letters of the month:

**Aa, Cc, Dd, Ee, Gg**

Numbers of the month: **1-5**

**Ways of Being Together:**

**Listen**

**Be Kind**

**Be Gentle**

**Be Safe**

**Clean up after ourselves**

**Early Learning Guidelines:**

***I am learning about me and my family.***

***I am building relationships.***

***I am touching, seeing, hearing and moving around.***

***I am growing up healthy.***

***I am communicating.***

***I am learning about my world.***

Things we are working on at school that you can practice with your children at home.....

Putting on clothing like coats and sweatshirts, putting on/taking off shoes, cleaning up after ourselves, trying new foods, asking for help, wiping our own bottoms, making our own choices...

# Learning in Action!



These girls made up a game together! They collaborated, shared ideas, and took turns at the game. When faced with a scenario they had not anticipated, I guided them with prompts and they solved the problem! They practiced creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, idea-sharing, and problem-solving.

“We clean up after ourselves:” is one of our *Ways of Being Together*.

We are learning that caring for our community is a group effort, and we can all be helpers. These two were very enthusiastic about using the broom and dustpan, too.



## Resources:

These are resources I have shared with a few parents. I thought more of you may be interested.

[Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child](#) by John Gottmann

[Positive Discipline](#) by Jane Nielsen

[The Highly Sensitive Child](#) by Elaine Aron

I have taught many parenting classes on this books. I would be happy to do so for our class if folks are interested.

## Wish List:

- A volunteer to build an easy pvc pipe sensory table for the playground.
- White, one-inch binders. One for each student.
- Baby dolls and baby clothes.
- Old greeting cards, envelopes, and other letter-writing supplies
- Sandpaper