



Director's Newsletter

January

Happy New Year

And

Welcome Back

Please remember to send your children to school with mittens, hats, and boots so they can go outside for a walk during the colder snowy winter days.



A heartfelt thank you to all the Wesley families who donated Christmas presents to Caroline's Toy Closet. I'm sure you have made many children smile.

NOTICE

Parents: We are asking that you not contact the teachers on their cell phones during class time - 9:00 - 1:30 pm.

Please call the office & we will relay your message to the classroom. **THANK YOU....**

NO SCHOOL
MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



NO SCHOOL ON MON. FEB. 21ST AND
TUES. FEB. 22ND.
PRESIDENT'S DAY

INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION



SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS

If Newtown Public Schools are closed, Wesley will also be closed. If Newtown schools are delayed (for one, two, or three hours) Wesley will have a ONE HOUR DELAY - for all programs. Dismissal would be at the regular time.

If Newtown schools dismiss early because of the weather, Wesley will dismiss early at 12:00. Please be sure that we have your current emergency and cell phone numbers where we can reach you if needed. If you have any questions, please call me or refer to your handbook.

The following article was published by NAEYC and was written by Laurel Bongiorno, PH.D., an early childhood specialist:

Ten Things Every Parent Should Know About Play

1. Children learn through their play. Don't underestimate the value of play. Children learn and develop:
 - Cognitive skills - like math and problem solving in a pretend grocery store.
 - Physical abilities - like balancing blocks and running on the playground.
 - New vocabulary - like the words they need to play with toy dinosaurs.
 - Social skills - like playing together in a pretend veterinary clinic.
 - Literacy skills - like creating a menu for a pretend restaurant.
2. Play is healthy. Play helps children grow strong and healthy. It also counteracts obesity issues facing many children today.
3. Play reduces stress. Play helps your children grow emotionally. It is joyful and provides an outlet for anxiety and stress.
4. Play is more than meets the eye. Play is simple and complex. There are many types of play: symbolic, sociodramatic, functional, and games with rules - to name just a few.
5. Make time for play. As parents, you are the biggest supporters of your children's learning. You can make sure they have as much time to play as possible during the day to promote cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional development.
6. Play and learning go hand-in-hand. They are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child's lab.
7. Play outside. Remember your own outdoor experiences of building forts, playing on the beach, sledding in the winter, or playing with other children in the neighborhood. Make sure your children create outdoor memories too.
8. There's a lot to learn about play. There's a lot written on children and play. There are great NAEYC articles and books about play. For more information, go to naeyc.org.
9. Trust your own playful instincts. Remember as a child how play just came naturally? Give your children time for play and see all that they are capable of when given the opportunity.
10. Play is a child's context for learning. Children practice and reinforce their learning in multiple areas during play. It gives them a place and a time for learning that cannot be achieved through completing a worksheet. For example, in playing restaurant, children write and draw

menus, set prices, take orders, and make out checks. Play provides rich learning opportunities and leads to children's success and self-esteem

The Health Corner Christine Riccio, RN

The health and well-being of our families and staff remain our highest priority. In the interest of limiting the opportunity for transmission of any illness to others, please keep you child home if they experience any of the following:

- Fever of 100* or higher (children should be fever free for 48 hours before returning to school)
- Vomiting
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Continuous yellow/green runny noses



*our complete health policy mandated by the Department of Health on ill children can be found in Wesley's Parent Handbook.



Registration for next year's classes will begin in January. Look for the letter and registration forms in your child's backpack.

*Happy New Year
Stay Well
&
Have A Great Month !!*