



## Learning Through Play, Every Student, Every Day

### A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN!

Winter break is here! It seems everywhere we look are eager young faces looking forward to being home and spending time with family and friends.

This time of year feels magical for many of our students, eager to play in the snow, anticipation for the coming holidays, and sometimes just the joy of sleeping in. As adults, we watch with amazement at their excitement and energy.

For some of our students, winter break can also be a time of stress. There are often changes to routine, travel, and spending time with family or friends that they aren't as familiar with. Sometimes it is cabin fever that sets in, spending multiple days at home.

The good news is that whether your child is full of energy or cabin fever has set in, as a family, we can use some common strategies to help us all enjoy our time together.

- Plan on keeping your child in their daily routine of meals and bedtime.
- Snuggle together to read a book or play a game.
- Spend time together outside to enjoy the weather and go for a walk.
- Have a Plan B, weather can be unpredictable, and so can children.

Whatever your plans are for this winter break, I wish you much joy as you create wonderful family memories of Winter Break 2025.

### WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- Literacy Corner
- 4K Office Contact Information
- Tucker's Corner
- Kindergarten Immunizations
- January Activity Calendar
- AASD Birth-Five Events

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

No School (Winter Break)— December 24th through January 2nd  
(Classes resume January 5th)  
No School (Professional Development)— January 16th  
No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)— January 19th  
No School (Progress Report Work Day)— January 30th



HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK. WE  
LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU  
BACK IN SCHOOL ON JANUARY 5TH!

### Upcoming Events

- Learning Through Play Playgroups sponsored by Birth to Five Outreach: join on Thursdays each month from 9:00-10:00 AM OR 10:30-11:30 AM. Registration is required, see below for more information.
- Play with Purpose: join on Tuesdays each month from 9:00-10:00 AM or 10:30-11:30 AM. Registration is required, see below for more information.

For more information OR to register for any of these events, please contact:

(920) 832-6470



# THE LITERACY CORNER

## The Sounds of Language

As 4K students begin to learn about letters and words, they are also developing an awareness of the sounds in letters and words. Your child will become aware of the sounds of language when they hear and say rhymes and songs. Your child's teacher is creating an environment in which children are exposed to the sounds of language throughout the day. Teachers provide shared experiences in reading and writing, helping children to hear the beginning sounds in words. They engage students in oral language experience through songs, chants, and rhymes. The activities are playful and enjoyable.

### Ways that families can nurture the sounds of language at home...

- Help your child think of words that start with a specific beginning sound.
- Make up silly sentences with words that begin with the same sound, such as "Nobody was nice to Nancy's neighbor."
- Play simple rhyming games with your child, such as taking turns coming up with words that rhyme (go - no).
- Read books with rhymes.
- Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs.
- Practice the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading alphabet books.

### This month's book recommendations focus on Songs, Chants, & Rhymes:

Silly Sally by Audrey Wood  
Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss  
Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw  
One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root  
Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas  
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly by Simms Taback  
Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar by Bonnie Lass  
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.



Phonological and phonemic awareness. Reading Rockets. (2022, October 3). Retrieved December 12, 2022, from <https://www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/phonologicalphonemic>

### 4K OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Suzette Preston, Director of 4-Year-Old Kindergarten  
Kabao Moua, Dean of Students

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# TUCKER'S CORNER



Children get angry, sad, frustrated, nervous, happy, or embarrassed, but they often do not have the words to talk about how they are feeling. Children are experiencing so many new and exciting things for the first time. It can be overwhelming! Being able to sense and understand the emotions of self and others is a big part of a child's overall development and social success.

Parents and other adults can help children understand, validate, and express their emotions in the following ways:

- Build an emotional vocabulary. An emotional vocabulary is the collection of words your child uses to express their feelings and reactions to events. Giving your child a label for their emotions enables them to develop a vocabulary for talking about feelings.
  - When your child breaks a favorite toy and begins to cry, "I understand that you're upset."
- Give children many opportunities to identify feelings in themselves and others.
  - For example, you might say to your child, "Riding your bike is so much fun. I see you smiling. Are you happy?"
- Show children what their face looks like in a mirror, or on your face, and name the emotion.
- Read!

## Books about Emotions:

Glad Monster, Sad Monster: A Book About Feelings by Anne Miranda & Ed Emberley

Don't Feed the Monster on Tuesdays! by Adolph Moser

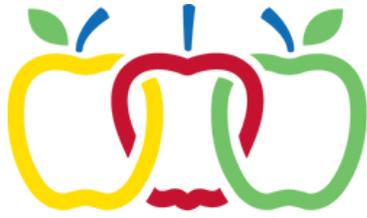
Today I Feel Silly: And Other Moods that Make My Day by Jamie Lee Curtis

My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss

When Sophie Gets Angry-Really, Really Angry by Molly Bang

If You're Angry and You Know It by Cecily Kaiser

The Way I Feel by Janan Cain



# APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Health Services \* P.O. Box 2019, Appleton, WI 54911 \* 920-852-5344

## FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE: KINDERGARTEN - REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS

TO: Parents of Incoming Kindergarten Students  
RE: Required Immunizations

Just a reminder: All students are required to receive the kindergarten series vaccines upon entrance to Kindergarten. Please make arrangements for your child to receive these vaccinations prior to the start of kindergarten. Community healthcare providers are typically very busy in the weeks leading to the start of fall classes, so you are encouraged to have your child immunized well in advance of school beginning.

Vaccine	Dose
DTaP	At least 4 doses (unless the 3 <sup>rd</sup> dose was received after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday)
Polio	At least 4 doses (unless the 3 <sup>rd</sup> dose was received after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday)
Hepatitis B	3 doses
MMR	2 doses
Varicella (chicken pox)	2 doses

**If your child has already received these immunizations:** please complete the student immunization record form\* with the dates received, SIGN at the bottom, and return to your child's school.

**If your child has not yet received the above immunizations:** please schedule an appointment with your health care provider. Immunizations are available free of charge through the Appleton Health Department (for children living in the city of Appleton; call 832-6429 to schedule an appointment) or through the Outagamie County Health Department (for children living outside the city limits of Appleton; call 832-5100 to schedule an appointment). Once the vaccinations have been received, please complete the dates on the student immunization record form, SIGN at the bottom, and return to your child's school.

**If you do not wish to have your child immunized:** please select the waiver option at the bottom of the student immunization record form, SIGN, and return to your child's school.

\*The student immunization record forms are available from the District website ([aasd.k12.wi.us](http://aasd.k12.wi.us)) or from the elementary school office.

### Important notes:

- If you already completed a waiver for your child in 4K, you will need to complete a new waiver for kindergarten as these immunizations are a new requirement
- Per Wisconsin state statute, all students are required to be fully immunized or have a waiver on file by the 30th day of school.

Please feel free to contact the school nurse at your child's school for further information.

# January Play Ideas Calendar Preschoolers



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p><b>National Spaghetti Day!</b> Make spaghetti for dinner OR cook up some noodles for your child to play with.</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>National Bird Day!</b> Make a homemade <a href="#">bird feeder</a>* OR save certain kitchen scraps* to throw outside for the birds. </p> <p>Scan here for more information about Birth-Five Outreach </p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>National Cuddle Day!</b> Gather blankets and stuffies to find a new spot to create a cozy cuddle area. Read books or talk about the day with your child. </p>	<p>7</p> <p>Make your own winter story! Have your child draw the pictures and you write the words. </p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>Learning Through Play</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30 <b>Some Pets</b> (Registration required) <b>Sing &amp; Wiggle...Rhyme &amp; Giggle*</b> 6-7 PM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Turn on some music and have a dance party! Remember to play different genres of music. </p>	<p>10</p> <p>Practice ways to help your child <b>calm down</b>*. Practicing helps them to use those strategies when they are upset.</p>
<p>11</p> <p><b>National Milk Day!</b> Drink a glass of milk with snack today. Watch...  It Looked Like S...</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Using the end of an empty toilet paper roll*, dip it in white paint (or yogurt/cool whip). Turn the circle prints into a snowman.</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>National Rubber Ducky Day!</b> Using a paper plate, yellow crayon and an orange paper triangle, make this cute duck*. </p>	<p>14</p> <p>Exercise is good for everyone! Try watching a kids exercise or yoga video together.</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>Learning Through Play</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30 <b>Red Light, Green Light</b> (Registration required)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Have an indoor snowball fight. Grab pieces of paper out of the recycling, crumple them and throw them.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Make a winter hat or mitten craft using paper and cotton balls*.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Make <b>Snow Dough</b>* using this recipe. All you need is 2 cups of snow and 1 cup of cornstarch!</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>National Imagination Day!</b> Follow your child's lead and play with the toys however they choose.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Make a paper snowflake*. Follow the directions on the back to fold your paper. </p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>National Hugging Day!</b> Strengthen the bond between your child by giving them hugs throughout the day*.</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>Learning Through Play</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30 <b>Exploring the Senses</b> (Registration required)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Take turns building a toilet paper tower*. How many rolls high can you get it?</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>National Compliment Day!</b> Lead by example. Give your child compliments throughout the day.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Make an indoor obstacle course. Crawl under chairs, over cushions and around toys...</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Take care of your child by taking care of yourself. -Take 5 minutes -Journal -Enjoy a walk</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Turn your snack into a snowman*. </p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>National Kazoo Day!</b> Create your own music or watch this video to make a kazoo*.  * Make a Kazoo - Kid...</p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>National Puzzle Day!</b> Help your child do puzzles or make your own puzzle.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Let your child help make dinner. Let them add ingredients and stir them together*.</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>National Hot Chocolate Day!</b> After playing outside, enjoy a warm cup of hot chocolate.</p>

AASD  
**Birth-Five**  
OUTREACH

BIRTH-FIVE OUTREACH & APPLETON  
COMMUNITY 4K INVITE YOU TO

# Sing & Wiggle Rhyme & Giggle!

**JANUARY 8TH**  
**6 PM-7 PM**

COMMUNITY EARLY  
LEARNING CENTER  
313 S. STATE ST.

Get ready to move and groove with songs, games, crafts, snacks and other musical-themed activities!

We're thrilled to welcome Mr. Roecker, dedicated music teacher and gifted musician, as our special guest performer!

(LIVE SHOW BEGINS AT 6:15 PM)

**REGISTER BY**  
**JANUARY 5TH**  
**FREE & OPEN TO**  
**FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**  
**AGES BIRTH TO FIVE.**  
**SIBLINGS WELCOME!**

The following  
information is needed  
for registration:

Parent/Caregiver name,  
Child's name/birth date,  
phone number, address &  
email address

PLEASE CONTACT  
DANIELLE TZAKAIS  
AT  
(920) 832-6470 #1  
OR  
tzakaisdaniell@asd.k12.wi.us

