



## Learning Through Play, Every Student, Every Day

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

Hello 4K Families! Spring Break is just days away, and we have wrapped up Spring Conferences. If you haven't had a chance to meet with your child's teacher and would like to do so, please contact them to schedule a conference. As I visit classrooms across our community, I have been so pleased to see the growth our students are making in social and emotional, early literacy, and math skills. I hope that you are also seeing this growth with your young learner at home.

This last quarter of the school year provides an opportunity for us to start thinking about Kindergarten. There are two opportunities we would like to strongly encourage our families to consider having their children participate in this spring and summer. First, while it may seem early, it is almost time to register for Countdown to Kindergarten, our summer program for students to have the opportunity to experience the kindergarten classrooms in their new school, play with friends from 4K over the summer, and meet new friends they will be going to school with in the fall. Students will also continue to practice and reinforce the learning they had in 4K so they are prepared to pick up where they left off when they walk into Kindergarten. The registration flyer for this important opportunity is included in this newsletter on page 5. Next month, we will discuss the second opportunity: Kindergarten Welcome Events held at each elementary school in spring or summer. Enjoy your spring break!

### SPRING BREAK DATES:

Please note that we will not have school starting March 27th through April 6th. Students return to school on April 7th.



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

- Importance of Rhyme
- Parent Advisory Council
- Tucker's Corner
- Literacy Corner
- 4K Office Contact Information
- Countdown to Kindergarten (AASD Summer School)
- Health Services Note
- April Activity Calendar
- AASD Birth-Five Events

### 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



## DID YOU KNOW? THE IMPORTANCE OF RHYME

Rhyme is important in early literacy as it teaches children about language and separates sounds within words. Rhymes are words that sound alike at the end, like bat & hat, map & tap, and dog & log. Playing with rhymes allows children to hear the differences and similarities in how words sound at the end. Research shows that familiarity with rhyme allows for another pathway to reading and future reading success. Playful experiences in rhyme help children grow in reading, cognition, and language development. Exposure to play with words gives children another pathway to reading.

You can support this growth at home in your everyday routines.

Here are some examples of ways to practice rhyme with your child:

- Read books with rhyme
- Point out rhyming words in your home environment (floor/door)
- Play rhyming games
- Sing rhyming songs
- Read [Nursery Rhymes](#) an online book you can read again and again



## HELP SHAPE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: JOIN OUR PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Appleton Area School District Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a group of parents, caregivers, and community members who support and advocate for students with disabilities who work together with district staff to strengthen opportunities for students across our schools.

The purpose of the council is to expand opportunities for students with disabilities, promote inclusion, and serve as a forum for families and supporters to share ideas and perspectives. The group also works to connect families with learning opportunities and resources that support students and their families.

We are currently welcoming new members who are interested in helping shape programs, events, and supports for students with disabilities in AASD. The council meets once per month for about one hour.

Through the work of this group, families and staff have collaborated to:

- Develop parent education sessions
- Host our annual Food Truck Rally
- Raise funds to bring the Arts for All League to AASD
- Begin efforts to expand communication boards and adaptive playground equipment at schools across the district

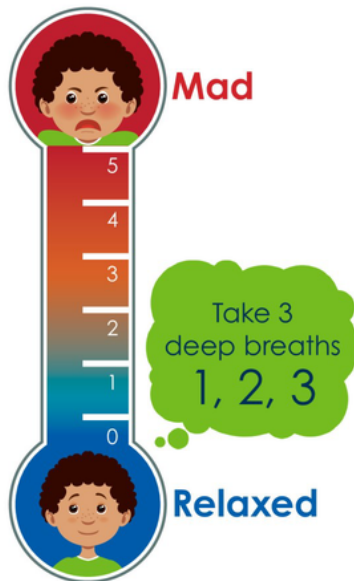
If you are interested in helping support and improve opportunities for students with disabilities in AASD, we would love to have you join us. Please reach out to Amy Steiner, Executive Director of Special Education, at [steineramy@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:steineramy@aasd.k12.wi.us) for more information.

# TUCKER'S CORNER



## How to Help Children Regulate Strong Emotions

### Relaxation Thermometer

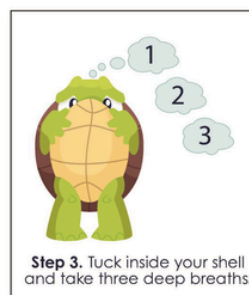
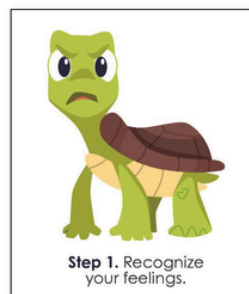


Regulating strong emotions can be a difficult task for young children. This is a skill that can be taught and practiced with children. It is important that children learn that it is normal to get angry. The goal is to teach children useful and acceptable ways to manage their feelings, especially strong emotions. A child who has been taught how to recognize and understand anger in themselves and others will be less likely to express their anger in aggressive and destructive ways. Managing feelings is a life-long skill necessary for children to be happy and healthy.

Here are a few tools and strategies that can help children learn about emotions and how to handle them:

- Read books about being angry. Talk about what the character does and how they handle their emotions.
- Read the story about Tucker Turtle. He teaches children steps about how to calm their bodies when they are upset.
- Explore choices that may calm your child when they are feeling mad.
- Puppets and toys can be great tools to role play situations about expressing anger in an acceptable way.
- Notice and label when you, your child or others are angry. Talk about choices that are appropriate and safe.

### NCPMI The Turtle Technique



# THE LITERACY CORNER

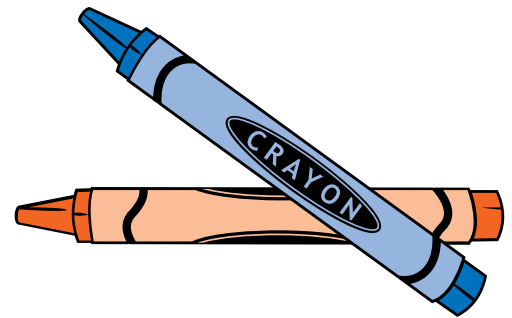
## Learning to Write

Children are born into a world full of print (Fountas and Pinnell). Your child observes you making grocery lists, writing notes, making signs, filling out forms, and using email and text messaging. Your child's early attempts at writing are important experiences for them. They play at writing just like they play at cooking, building, and reading. The more opportunities you can create for your child to play with writing the more they will learn about both writing and reading.

In the 4K classroom you child is participating in many different kinds of writing including bookmaking. Bookmaking is something your child can also do at home. Books may include pictures only, scribble writing, pictures and attempts at letters or pictures along with letters and words. The goal of bookmaking is to help children see themselves as writers.

This month's recommendations focus on Authors we LOVE:

Lois Ehlert  
Rosemary Wells  
Donald Crews  
Tana Hoban  
Denise Fleming  
Amy Krause Rosenthal  
Eric Carle  
Jerry Pinkney  
Leo Lionni  
Mo Willems



It's almost time to register for the *Countdown to Kindergarten* summer school program. See the next page of this newsletter for more information! Registration starts April 20th!



## 4K OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Karissa Covington & Joan Kretz  
Appleton Community 4K Administrative Assistants

Appleton Community 4K  
2701 N Oneida Street, Suite C2  
Appleton, WI 54911

Phone: (920) 852-5600

Fax: (920) 852-5601

E-mail: [community-4k@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:community-4k@aasd.k12.wi.us)



# Appleton Area School District

## Summer School 2026: Countdown to Kindergarten

June 9 – July 3 from 8:30-11:30 (*No classes on June 19*)

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### Daily Schedule

8:30–11:30 AM — Summer School Classes

Some sites may have:

8:00–8:30 AM — Free Breakfast

11:30 AM–12:00 PM — Free Lunch

11:30 AM–5:30 PM — Boys & Girls Club Program: to enroll, <https://www.bgclubfoxvalley.org/appleton/>

11:30 AM–5:30 PM — YMCA after care: to enroll, [schoolage@ymcafoxcities.org](mailto:schoolage@ymcafoxcities.org)

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### Locations

Appleton Bilingual, Badger, Berry Classical, Dunlap, Edison, Ferber, Foster, Franklin, Highlands, Horizons, Houdini, Huntley, Jefferson, Johnston, McKinley, Richmond, Sandy Slope, The Omoladé Academy

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### Class Description

Countdown to Kindergarten is a playful readiness class that builds early math, reading, writing, and social skills. Students also have a lot of fun and meet new friends while becoming familiar with routines and the school setting. This class is for students entering 5 year old Kindergarten the following fall.

Cuenta atrás para el jardín de infancia es un programa lúdico de preparación que desarrolla las habilidades básicas de matemáticas, lectura, escritura y socialización. Los niños también se divierten mucho y hacen nuevos amigos mientras se familiarizan con las rutinas y el entorno escolar. Este programa está dirigido a niños que ingresarán al jardín de infancia (para niños de 5 años) el siguiente otoño.

Countdown to Kindergarten yog chav kawm npaj ua si uas tsim kev ua lej, nyeem ntawv, sau ntawv, thiab kev sib raug zoo. Cov tub ntxhais kawm kuj muaj kev lom zem ntau thiab ntsib cov phooj ywg tshiab thaum paub txog kev ua haujlwm thiab kev teeb tsa tsev kawm ntawv. Chav kawm no yog rau cov menyuum kawm ntawv uas muaj hnub nyoog 5 xyoo mus kawm Kindergarten lub caij nplooj zeeg tom ntej.

Kushuka kwa Shule ya Chekechea ni darasa la utayari wa kucheza ambalo hujenga hesabu ya mapema, kusoma, kuandika na ujuzi wa kijamii. Wanafunzi pia hufurahiya sana na kukutana na marafiki wapya huku wakifahamu taratibu na mpangilio wa shule. Darasa hili ni la wanafunzi wanaoingia shule ya chekechea ya miaka 5 msimu unaofuata.

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### Registration Details

#### Current AASD Students

- Families will receive an email or message on the parent portal on **April 13** with assigned summer school site access.
- Enrollment will be open to the school the student will attend the next school year.
- To request a different site, please contact [kadolphkarrie@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:kadolphkarrie@aasd.k12.wi.us) or call (920) 852-5332.

#### New or Private School Students

- Families should complete the registration form on the next page and return to the school you'd like the student to attend.

#### Course Registration Opens: April 20

- Families register through the **Infinite Campus Parent Portal** <https://portal.aasd.k12.wi.us>
- Student's finalized schedules and fees will also be available for viewing in the Portal within one week after registering the student.
- Fees may be paid online, also through the portal.
- Online registration will close on June 1<sup>st</sup>; however, registration forms may be dropped off at the school site after that time.

Need help logging in? Contact the Helpdesk: [helpdesk@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:helpdesk@aasd.k12.wi.us) • (920) 852-5555 ext. 63159.

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### Contacts

**Coordination Specialist:** Kamie Kadolph • [kadolphkarrie@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:kadolphkarrie@aasd.k12.wi.us)

**Summer School Director:** Todd Kadolph • [kadolph todd@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:kadolph todd@aasd.k12.wi.us)

**Summer School Office:** (920) 852-5332

#### Summer classes do not implement IEP services per WI DPI:

<https://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/programs-services/services/special-education/current-families/summer-school-participation-for-students-with-disabilities>

**Fees may be waived for students that qualify for free and reduced lunch- contact School Site Coordinator**



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

## FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE:

### Is Your Child Well Enough to Go to School?

It is not always easy to decide if your child is sick enough to stay home or well enough to be in school. Children who come to school are expected, with few exceptions, to participate fully in school activities.

Here are some guidelines that might help in a parent's decision-making.

**Fever:** A fever of 100.4 degrees or more signals an illness that is probably going to make a student uncomfortable and unable to function well in class. Your child should stay home until his or her temperature is less than 100.4 degrees (without the use of fever reducing medication) for 24 hours and he/she is feeling better.

**Vomiting, Diarrhea or Severe Nausea:** These are symptoms that require a student to remain at home until a normal diet is tolerated for 24 hours.

**Infectious Diseases:** Diseases such as impetigo, and strep throat may require a health care visit and prescription for medication. Contacting the health care provider and using the medicine as directed for the full recommended length of time are necessary. A student may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of an antibiotic and if he/she is feeling well.

**Rashes:** Rashes or patches of broken, itchy skin need to be examined by a health care provider if they appear to be spreading or not improving.

In the AASD, we monitor illness rates within our schools and community with the collaboration of the City of Appleton Health Department, and we will continue to do so. As rates increase, our site teams, Student Services team, and Facilities team communicate and increase cleaning efforts and family communication as preventive measures. Families can help us with these preventive measures by following the guidelines above.









Here are some things you can do to help prevent illness:

- Frequent handwashing, sanitizing if soap and water are unavailable
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue or sleeve
- Drink plenty of water (send a water bottle with your child to school)
- Eat a well balanced diet (includes when sending snacks/ lunches to school)
- Clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces
- Don't share personal items
- Get enough sleep

# April Play Ideas Calendar

## Preschool



| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Enjoy this Spring story*<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baby Loves Spring</li> </ul> or use your binoculars to go bird watching. </p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Secure paper under a chair and have your child lie underneath to draw on it.*</p>   | <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Play With Purpose</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30<br/> <b>Power of Praise</b> (Registration required)</p>  | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Draw with chalk or make your own chalk.<br/> Mix equal parts cornstarch &amp; warm water. Add food coloring.</p> | <p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Learning Through Play</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30<br/> <b>Happy Trails</b> (Registration required)</p>              | <p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>National Farm Animal Day!</b><br/> Talk about animals that are on the farm. What sounds do those animals make? </p> | <p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Kids Expo</b> at Fox Cities Exhibition Center 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. FREE fun and educational event for families and children.*</p> |
| <p><b>12</b></p> <p>Help your child put dirt into a pot. Next, sprinkle some grass seeds on top. Watch it grow.*</p>   | <p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Music Therapy Day!</b><br/> Sing along to your child's favorite songs </p> | <p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Play With Purpose</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30<br/> <b>Sleep Solutions</b> (Registration required)</p> | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>Draw faces on plastic eggs.<br/> Talk about the different feelings.*</p>  | <p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Learning Through Play</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30<br/> <b>Hungry Caterpillar Carnival*</b><br/> 5:30 - 7:00 PM</p> | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>Draw pictures of bugs and hide them in the grass for your child to find. </p>  | <p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>National Exercise Day!</b><br/> Go for a walk or try an exercise Youtube video.</p>   |
| <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Take 2 plastic eggs and 2 spoons. Balance the egg on the spoon while walking around the house.* </p>  | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Go outside and blow bubbles with your child. </p>                           | <p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Play With Purpose</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30<br/> <b>Quality Time</b> (Registration required)</p>    | <p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>National Jelly Bean Day!</b><br/> Sort your jelly beans by color or color your own paper jelly bean.</p>     | <p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Learning Through Play</b> at CELC from 9-10 &amp; 10:30-11:30<br/> <b>Little Cloud</b> (Registration required)</p>             | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Give your child a snack you can count together.</p>   | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Dig in the dirt and look for worms.* </p>       |
| <p><b>26</b></p> <p>Snuggle up with your child and enjoy this book...<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the Garden...</li> </ul> or enjoy a different Spring book.*</p>   | <p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>National Tell a Story Day!</b><br/> Tell your child a real or made up story today.</p>  | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Does your potted grass need a haircut? Teach your child to use a scissors.*</p>                                      | <p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>National Zipper Day!</b><br/> Let your child practice zipping or buttoning clothes.</p>                      | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Dip a fork in paint to make a fork print flower picture.*</p>   | <br>Scan here for more information about Birth-Five Outreach   |  |

**Week of the Young Child**  
**FAMILY FUN**  
**GARNIVAL**  
**FREE Admission for Families!**  
 April 16, 2026 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM

**JOIN US FOR GAMES, REFRESHMENTS, PRIZES AND MORE FOR CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO FIVE AND THEIR FAMILIES. OLDER SIBLINGS ARE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE FUN!**

Community Early Learning Center  
 313 S. State St.  
 Appleton

Appleton Even Start Family Literacy

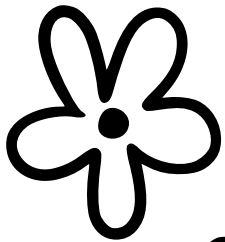
Community Early Learning Center  
 Fox Valley

AASD Birth-Five OUTREACH

Appleton COMMUNITY 4K

UW OSHKOSH HEAD START

bridges Child Enrichment Center



**2026-2027 4K ENROLLMENT**

Do you know a child who will be 4 years old on or before September 1st?!

Appleton Community 4K enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year began on Monday, February 9th, 2026!

Find more information on our 4K website:  
[4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our\\_school/enrollment](http://4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our_school/enrollment)



## APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> REFERENDUM

On April 7, our community will vote on an operational referendum seeking \$15 million per year for four years. The estimated tax impact is \$15 per year for a \$100,000 home, or \$45 per year for the average Appleton-area home valued at \$300,000.

In this video, we take a closer look at how [enrollment trends and changing student needs affect district spending](#). It also discusses why many school district costs remain fixed even when enrollment shifts, and how increasing student needs, such as specialized services, language support for newcomer students, and support for students experiencing homelessness, are shaping how district resources are used.

### Ways to Learn About the April 7 Operational Referendum:

- [Join us at a Referendum Information Session](#): Open to all community members, our next opportunity is our [Virtual Session](#) on Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. or Wednesday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the AASD Welcome Center, 2701 North Oneida Street, Suite C3
- [Visit the Referendum Webpage](#): Access videos, FAQs, and submit your questions

## COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The AASD shares local community opportunities for students. These community opportunities include upcoming events and activities such as art and music camps, youth athletics, cultural events, enrichment programs, and more. We encourage AASD families to regularly review these opportunities for students of all ages. Check out the [AASD COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WEBPAGE](#) for a current list of opportunities for students.

