

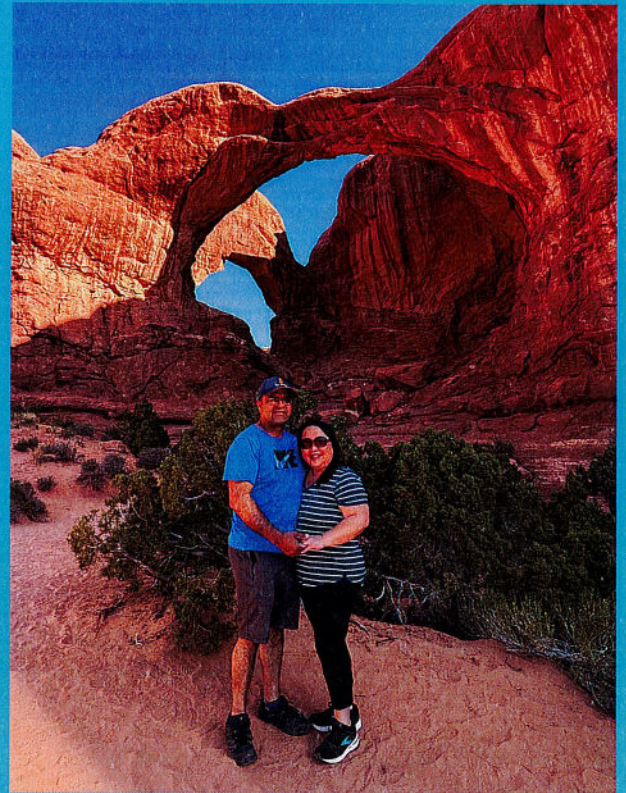
hello

Meet Mrs. Leon (Lay-own)

My Personal Life

Over 20 years ago, I met my husband Jorge. It was a chance meeting but we fell in love instantly. Now, 26 years later, we are still having fun and enjoying life together. We have a beautiful daughter named Kiersten. She's married to Seth and has her own business. I enjoy working around the house on various projects, whether it is in the garden or at the chicken pen. I am a competitive person and love playing sports such as volleyball, tennis, and table tennis. I also enjoy hiking, photography, gardening and traveling.

Photos



My Teacher Life

I returned to school as an adult, realizing that I already teach every day as a teacher's aide/interpreter. I took some online classes and finished my studies at UW-La Crosse in early childhood. I also went back and got my masters in EL studies through Grand Canyon University. I've been teaching since 2015 and was lucky enough to get the position I wanted right out of college. While there have been ups and downs, I wouldn't trade this career for anything else. I love my job and love working with preschool kids! I can't wait to meet all of your children! It's going to be a great year!

Favorites

Food: Mexican/Asian cuisine
Color: Blue (all shades)
Hobby: Photography
Book: The Giving Tree
Holiday: Christmas
Snack: snickers/oreos/Pepsi
Store: TJMaxx/ Target

Summit Environmental Preschool

Supply List 2025-2026

We ask that families provide the following items for their preschooler:

- **A change of clothing** (pants, shirt, underwear, socks) inside a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. This will stay at school in their lockers in case they have an accident or spill water/milk.
- **Box of Kleenex** (class use)
- **Box of crackers** (or other snack item your child would enjoy sharing). Please do not send items that contain peanuts, peanut butter, or which are made in a peanut facility.
- **A Backpack** that is big enough to hold a standard size folder (little backpacks are cute but not big enough for folders or library books, no wheels please).
- **2 plastic folders with pockets** (labeled with your child's name)
- **1 1.5-inch binder** (Labeled with child's name)
- **1 pkg of small paper plates**
- **5 oz. cups for snack**
- **Elmer's Glue sticks**
- **Crayola Markers**
- **Crayola watercolor palette** (a small two-row palette is fine)
- **Playdough Brand playdough** (bigger containers)

Optional Items (will be pooled for class use, anything on this list will be greatly appreciated)

- ~~Glitter glue~~
- Ziploc bags (quart and gallon)
- Paper plates (large)
- Paper towel rolls
- Clorox disinfecting wipes
- ~~Glue bottle~~
- ~~Page protectors~~

2025-2026 School Calendar

School District of La Crosse

807 East Avenue South
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 789-7600



Start & End

August 21 First Day of School
May 29 Last Day of School
Total Student Instructional Days: 175

No School

August 12-14 New Teacher Induction
August 18-20 Staff Development - No School
September 1 Labor Day - No School
September 26 No School
October 3 Staff Development - No School
October 6 Family Conferences - No School
November 7 Staff Development - No School
November 26-28 Fall Break - No School
December 24-Jan. 4 Winter Break - No School
January 16 Staff Development - No School
January 19 MLK Jr. Day - No School
February 13 No School
March 6 Staff Development - No School
March 9 Family Conferences - No School
March 30 - April 3 Spring Break - No School
May 25 Memorial Day - No School

Semesters/Quarters

Quarter 1: August 21 - October 24
Quarter 2: October 27 - January 15
Quarter 3: January 20 - March 27
Quarter 4: April 6 - May 29

Family/Teacher Conferences

Family/Teacher Conferences are on **October 2** and **March 5** at all levels for approximately 4 hours after the regular student instructional day

Family/Teacher Conferences are on **October 6** and **March 9** from 12:00-7:50 at elementary levels

*Teachers at MS/HS will have PD starting at 12:00 followed by conferences

NOTES

August 18 is welcome back for all staff
August 15 is flex day for teachers
October 3 is PD for teachers and TAs

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Emergency Closing Info

Should more than one school day be lost due to an emergency closing, students and teachers will follow the schedule below:
1st Day Missed = Waived
2nd Day Missed = Waived
After 2 Missed = Minutes will be added to the daily schedule to extend the day at each level

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Calendar Key

- No School
- Staff Development (No School for Students)
- No School: Family/Teacher Conferences from 12:00-7:50 for elementary and PD/Conferences from 12:00-7:50 for MS/HS
- Family/Teacher Conferences beginning **after** school for approximately 4 hours
- Start/End Dates

Summit Environmental Open House

August 20, 2025 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

1800 Lakeshore Dr. La Crosse, WI 54603 608-789-7980

Supplies can be brought during open house.

Please Complete Student Info Update Prior to Open House

 **Student Info Update: Opens July 1, 2025**

1. **Login** to the [Skyward Family Access Portal].
2. **Select** "Go to Student Info Update" for your student.
3. **Update** each tab with current details.
4. **Save & Submit.**
 - **For assistance**, contact the school's Main Office: 608-789-7980



Scan to get step-by-step directions or visit: lacrossesd.org/enrollment/student-info-update/

 **Key Dates:**

- **Picture day:** August 20, 2025 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- **Picture Retake:** October 2, 2025
- **First Day of School:** August 21, 2025 7:45 AM to 2:25 PM

Important information about your child.

Child's Name _____ DOB _____

1. My child will be:

A. Dropped off/picked up from school by _____

B. My child will come to school on a bus from

C. My child will go home/to daycare on the bus to

2. My child will eat breakfast/lunch at school. (this must be on a daily basis) _____ Yes _____ No

3. My child has older siblings. They are _____

(Names and grade)

4. Child's Allergies _____

5. Child's interests _____

6. What name does your child prefer to be called?

7. How should we learn to spell your child's name? (Eg: Jo for Joseph, Mike for Michael) _____



How to Help Your Child Have a Successful Morning

Brooke Brogle, Alyson Jiron & Jill Giacomini

Do you struggle with stressful mornings when you want to lay your head down and cry before 8:00 a.m.? Do you often leave the house in an angry, frantic rush? Mornings can be a particularly challenging time for parents. Getting your entire family up and out the door is no easy task! It is important to understand that your morning routine serves as the foundation for your family's entire day. You can create a morning routine that not only helps your day to begin more smoothly, but also teaches your child important skills that he needs to become more independent and confident. A morning routine can also reduce challenging behavior such as crying, whining and tantrums.



Backpack Connection Series

About this Series

The Backpack Connection Series was created by TACSEI to provide a way for teachers and parents/caregivers to work together to help young children develop social emotional skills and reduce challenging behavior. Teachers may choose to send a handout home in each child's backpack when a new strategy or skill is introduced to the class. Each Backpack Connection handout provides information that helps parents stay informed about what their child is learning at school and specific ideas on how to use the strategy or skill at home.

The Pyramid Model

The Pyramid Model is a framework that provides programs with guidance on how to promote social emotional competence in all children and design effective interventions that support young children who might have persistent challenging behavior. It also provides practices to ensure that children with social emotional delays receive intentional teaching. Programs that implement the Pyramid Model are eager to work together with families to meet every child's individualized learning and support needs. To learn more about the Pyramid Model, please visit ChallengingBehavior.org.

More Information

More information and resources on this and other topics are available on our website, ChallengingBehavior.org.

Try This at Home

- Use a visual schedule with items such as photos, clipart, or objects that shows your child the steps in his morning routine. This visual schedule can help him to understand the expectations of the morning routine. To learn more about how to create a visual schedule, go to challengingbehavior.org and search the site for "visual schedules" in the search box located in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.
- If your child has trouble waking up in the morning, it might be because he is not getting enough sleep at night. Set a consistent bedtime and stick with it. When a child's bedtime changes it can make it harder for him to wake up in the morning. For more information on bedtime routines, go to challengingbehavior.org and search the site for "bedtime routines" in the search box located in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.
- Plan Ahead. Use your bedtime routine to plan for the next day together.
 1. Lay out the clothes your child will wear.
 2. Pack his backpack.
 3. Discuss the morning routine, show him pictures and talk about the day ahead.
- Give your child some power over his morning routine by offering reasonable choices. For example, "First, get dressed. Then, you get a choice! Would you like to have cereal or pancakes for breakfast?"
- Include bonding time in your morning routine. Time to read, bathe or snuggle will help your child feel loved and calm as he begins his tasks for the day.

- Encourage your child. When your child completes a task and follows the routine, provide positive and specific encouragement. For example, say "Wow! You got up and got dressed all by yourself! Now we will have a few extra minutes to play with trains. What a great way to start the day!"

Practice at School

Teachers use routines to provide a predictable structure to your child's day. When a child understands what she should be doing and what will come next, she feels less anxiety and more excited to participate. While the specific activities in the classroom might change, the routine does not. For example, while 10:00 may always be art time, the specific craft (painting, cutting, gluing) may vary from day to day. Children become eager to try new activities because they are confident and comfortable with the routine.

The Bottom Line

A morning routine is a daily opportunity for you to build and nurture a positive relationship with your child. When you follow a repetitive morning routine you allow your child to gain practice with important skills such as dressing, bathing and grooming and give him a feeling of confidence and success. A calm, loving morning routine at home sets the tone for the entire day for both you and your child.



ChallengingBehavior.org



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Confidence in Kids

From play to chores, encourage effort and help kids acquire skills Liz Greene

Self-confidence originates from a perception of competence — or, to put it more simply, children develop confidence not because family and friends praise them, but because of their own accomplishments. As a preschool teacher, I watched many children become more confident and self-assured as they learned and completed new tasks and goals.

It's only natural that as parents you want to instill confidence in your kids. Confident children believe in themselves and are able to face new challenges without fear—essential factors for a happy and fulfilling life.

Although each child is different, there are a few general guidelines you can follow to build your kids' confidence.

Make time for play

Playtime is one of the best investments you can make in your child. The hours you spend playing with your children show them that they are valuable and worth your time.

Focus your attention on your child during play. Children are perceptive and will know if your mind is elsewhere. Dedicate yourself to the game that you and your child are playing. That shared imagination brings you closer together and lets your child know that you're listening to them.

The life of a preschool teacher is a hectic one, and I often spent time multitasking. However, when it came to playtime, I gave the kids my full attention and jumped into their play with both feet. The bonds I shared with my students were often built during this important time together.

Provide them with small jobs

Children need opportunities to display their skills and feel that their contribution is valued. At home, this means asking them to help with household chores such as:

- Setting the table
- Tidying up toys
- Dusting
- Sweeping
- Vacuuming
- Doing the dishes
- Sorting or folding laundry
- Washing the car

- Gardening

Consider your child's interests and give them a job that lets them feel useful and successful. If your child is proud of their ability to organize, ask them to put toys away in designated areas. When a child accomplishes a task, they feel confident.

When tasks start to lose their fun appeal, work with your children. It helps them to learn that sometimes, work comes before play.

Give them your attention

I can't stress enough how important it is to make time to give your child your full attention. Much like playtime, it boosts your child's feelings of self-worth by sending the message that you think they're important and valuable.

Here are a few simple tips for building confidence while giving your kids your attention:

- Make eye contact so it's clear that you're really listening to what they're saying.
- If your child needs to talk, stop and listen to what they have to say. They need to know that their thoughts, feelings, and opinions matter.
- Help them get comfortable with their emotions by accepting them without judgment. By doing so, you validate those feelings and show that you value what they have to say.
- Share your own feelings to help them gain confidence in expressing their own.

Provide encouragement often

Think about the last time someone acknowledged your hard work and told you they believed in you. That kind of encouragement not only gives adults the kind of confidence boost they need to keep going, but it also builds the best kind of confidence a child can have.

There's a big difference between encouragement and praise. One rewards the person while the other rewards the task. Praise can make a child feel that that they're only worthwhile if they do something flawlessly. Encouragement, on the other hand, acknowledges the effort.

For example, "This sand castle is amazing!" vs. "You worked so hard on this sand castle! Great job." Too much praise can create pressure to perform and set up a constant need for approval from others. It's better instead to give your child the message that the effort—and seeing something through to the end—is what's truly important.

By setting your children up to succeed, providing them a generous amount of encouragement, and spending quality time together, you can help them grow up feeling good about themselves and the world around them.

Handwriting Without Tears[®]

Yellow

Help Me Write My Name

"That's my name. My name starts with ____." Maybe your child is trying to write or even make letters you can recognize. If so, then it's time to start showing your child how to write a few letters. Here's how:

1. Be a good example.
2. Write in all capitals.
3. Start every letter at the top.
4. Teach letters step by step.
5. Write on paper strips with a smiley face in top left corner.

How can I be a good example?

Hold the crayon correctly. Your child will be watching both how you make the letters and how you hold the crayon or pencil. Be sure to be a good model. You may need to make a special effort to hold it correctly.

Why should I use all capitals?

Capitals are the first letters to learn. Capitals are the letters children can visually recognize and remember. Capitals are the first letters children can physically write. You may use lowercase if you and your child's teacher think your child is ready.

Does it matter where my child starts?

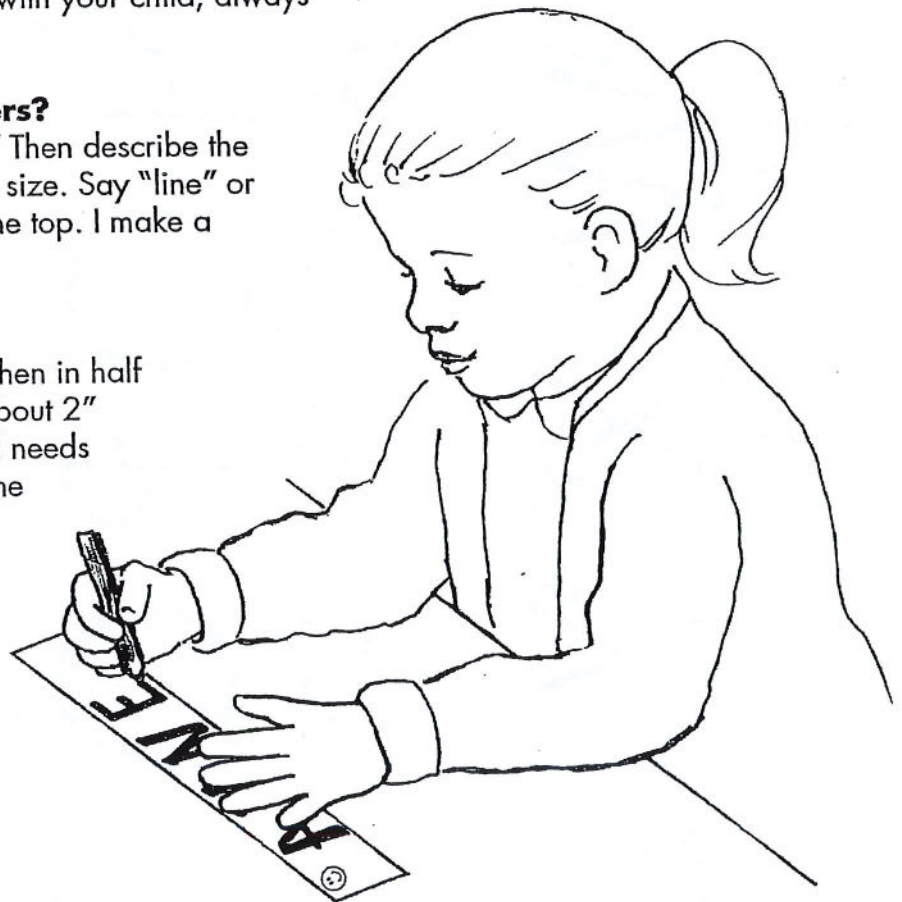
Yes, it really does. English has one basic rule for both reading and writing: read and write English from the top to bottom, left to right. When you write with your child, always start at the top!

What do I say when I teach the letters?

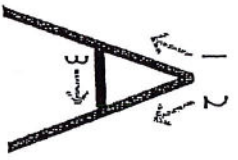
This is easy. Always say, "I start at the top." Then describe the part you're making. Say "big" or "little" for size. Say "line" or "curve" for shape, like this: D = "I start at the top. I make a big line. Now I make a big curve."

What kind of paper should I use?

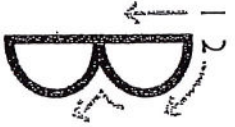
Just fold a paper in half the long way and then in half again. Cut. That will give you four strips, about 2" by 11". You can adjust the size if your child needs to write bigger. Now put a smiley face in the top left corner of each strip. Use two strips. You write on the top one; your child writes on the bottom one. Make the capital letters as big as the paper.



GET SET FOR SCHOOL!



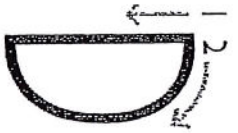
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Big line
Little line



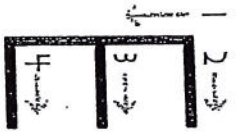
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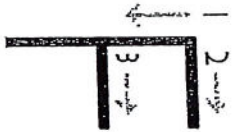
Big C curve



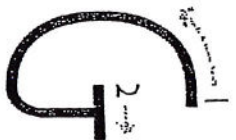
Big line
Big curve



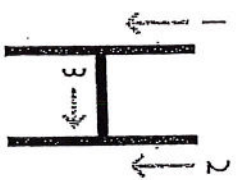
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Big line
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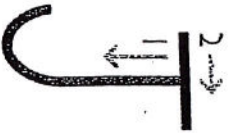
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Little line
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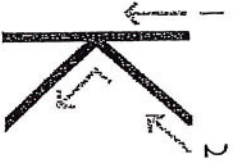
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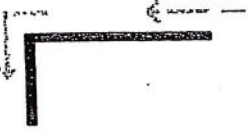
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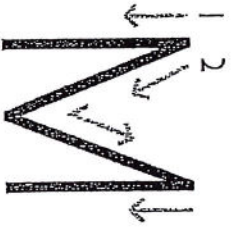
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Turn
Little line



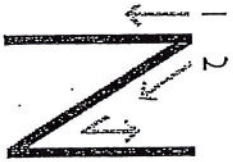
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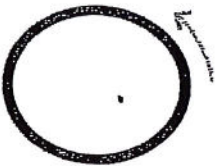
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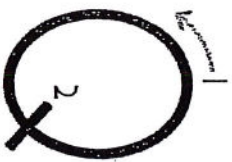
Big line
Big line
Big line



Big C curve
Keep going



Big line
Little curve



Big C curve
Keep going
Little line



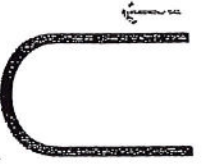
Big line
Little curve
Little line



Little curve
Turn
Little curve



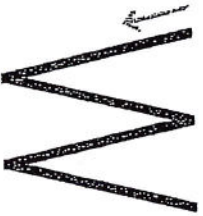
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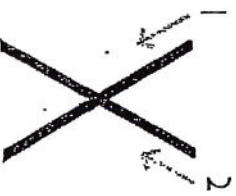
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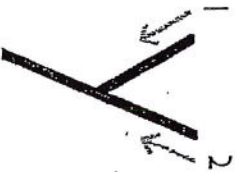
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