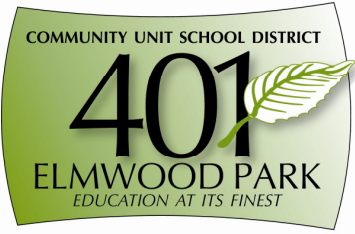


# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER NEWS



JOANNE MOURIKES RICE, PRINCIPAL

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PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

The month of September is speeding by. We are definitely into our routines here at the ECC. In kindergarten we are reading our books and practicing our site words. In preschool we are learning about seeds.

For our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program, PBIS, we will be learning appropriate behaviors in the Gym. When the weather is good, we use the outdoor playground provided by the Village of Elmwood Park. When it rains, we use our All Purpose room to exercise our large muscles and "shake our sillies out." Please review the following behavioral expectations with your child.

<p><b>All Purpose Room-Gym</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Keep body to self</li> <li>· Stay in play area</li> <li>· Listen to teacher with eyes and ears</li> <li>· Use equipment properly</li> <li>· Pay attention to others and your environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Take turns</li> <li>· Share</li> <li>· Use nice words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Follow directions</li> <li>· Try your best</li> <li>· Use peace sign and countdown</li> <li>· Have fun!</li> </ul>
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On Monday we will be sending home a contest entry form. Our PBIS mascot, the **Extra Caring Cub**, needs a name. Send in your entry, and the ECC will hold a school wide vote to name our cub!

On Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, the ECC will hold our first Fire Drill. The alarm will sound, the lights will flash, and students will quickly and quietly form a line and follow their teacher out of the building. Please discuss with your child the importance of quietly listening to directions during an emergency and about fire safety in general. October is National Fire Safety month. The ECC will hold a second fire drill, that will be a surprise for all teachers and students. At the ECC, we take fire safety practice very seriously.

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> is Picture Day at the ECC. All packages must be prepaid. Please visit our office if you need a new order envelope. Picture retakes will be on November 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Important Dates

Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> – Picture Day

October 7<sup>th</sup>- Institute Day, No Classes for Students

October 10<sup>th</sup>- Columbus Day, No Classes for Students

October 20<sup>th</sup>– PTO Meeting

OVER

# Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



## Engage attention as the year begins

Children naturally have short attention spans, but paying attention to the teacher is a necessary skill for success in school. To help your child tune in:

- **Ask!** This might be all it takes to direct your child's attention. "Olivia, will you please put the ball down and listen to what I have to say?"
- **Use a gentle touch.** Rubbing your child's back may encourage her to sit a few more minutes to hear the end of a story. Putting your arm around her may keep her from fidgeting.
  - **Use a prop.** If your child will listen better to a stuffed animal "doing the talking," by all means use one.

Keep in mind that most young children can only sit still for about 15 or 20 minutes before they need a new activity.

Source: L.O. Moore, *Inclusion Strategies for Young Children: A Resource Guide for Teachers, Child Care Providers, and Parents*, Corwin Press.

## Make a smooth transition

Starting school is a huge event for a young child. To smooth the way, try to:

- **Arrive early** to let your child settle in.
- **Share something from home.** A special scarf or pocket-sized toy may help reassure your child that you'll be coming back to get him.
- **Focus on fun.** "Look, Ms. West has the sand table out! I can't wait to hear all about it!"

Source: D. Sullivan, "Easing Into Preschool," *Parenting*, [www.parenting.com/article/easing-into-preschool-21354399](http://www.parenting.com/article/easing-into-preschool-21354399).



## Get your involvement off to a good start this year

Research shows that parent involvement from an early age helps children do better in school. Being involved tells your child that education is important to your family. That attitude is likely to stick with him. So:

- **Get** to know your child's teachers.
- **Check** with teachers to see how your child is doing in school.
- **Read**, talk and play with your child.