

September 24, 2009

Dear Parents,

We've been in school only a short time, but the children have already settled into the routines of a new classroom. We're doing our best to be consistent and to be sure the children always know what is expected of them. Even the process of setting up lunch- eating, cleaning up and settling down for rest- is running smoothly.

Work time is the busiest part of our day. There are five or more choices daily and the children are free to move from one activity to another. Dramatic play, drawing and building are offered most days. There is also always a space available for an art activity and/or playdough. Frequently, a special activity is also offered, like learning to play a new game, working at the water table or tray painting.

Much of our focus is on working together. If we play a game, we have to decide on the order of players and wait for our turn. We can change the rules, but everyone must agree. If a child comes to join the playdough table, the other children need to share some of their playdough. Children also share the words they know how to spell conventionally and their ideas on how to spell new ones. The block area calls for lots of negotiations on how to share both space and blocks. If you work in the dramatic play area, you have to decide what theme you will follow and what role each child will take. And, of course, at the end of worktime everyone pitches in to clean up. When there is a disagreement, the goal is always for children to identify the problem, listen to each other's needs and ideas and find a solution that is acceptable to everyone. Learning to work together is an important job for Ks at the start of school and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Luise and Alisa