



Unit Letter
"Family and Friends"
September, 2011

Dear Families,

Our year has started out very well. Adjusting to our school routine and our simple expectations are sometimes difficult and a little overwhelming. You and your children have done a really good job of cooperating in these transitional moments. I commend you all for allowing us to care for your children when they were becoming brave. We all know how to find the "strips" for sitting and the bathroom as needed. We are playing well in the midst of many choices. Our favorite parts of the day are playground time and snacks! Thank you, too, for your wonderful cooperation in taking your child to the bathroom prior to entering the classroom. When these needs are attended to your child has more time to play with friends.

Our newest unit will focus on, "Family and Friends". Conversations throughout the day, especially at snack time, will focus on family members and friends we can easily name and describe. Check out the lesson plans outside our classroom door for a detailed listing of the activities planned for this unit. This letter will be available for your quick reference as well.

We have started to learn the names of the children in our classes. It is so good to see the children naming one another as they play together. This is not something that happens without good effort. You can help us by asking your child if they can name a friend at school or describe what they did at school today. Be patient. Many children will not answer willingly early in the year. You have been good about returning the "Brown Bear and About Me" pages we sent home earlier. Please complete these and send them back to us. When the book is compiled it will be sent home with each of the children. This will be a good opportunity to practice name/picture recognition.

Presently, our "Star Bag" is in circulation. More bags and buckets will come home throughout the year. Everyone will get a turn to bring each bag home,. Please reinforce this with your child. Waiting can be hard to do and difficult to understand. Thank you for your cooperation and help in making this a good experience for all.

We completed our first Fire Drill with our class last week. This first introduction was simple and low key. (While lining up to come in from our playground experience we pointed out the large evergreen tree just beyond the playground fence. We told the children we would make a ring around the tree on another day. We told them it was our safety tree and if the loud fire alarm ...Mrs. Skaff made a similar sound... ever went off we would go there to be safe.) We want to keep you informed in case your child has questions or concerns.

Our first "Chapel" will take place on October 6. Our chapel time is about 15 minutes long and you are invited to attend with your child. Chapel takes place in the church sanctuary. We sing a few songs and the children hear a Bible story. You will have an opportunity to give a small donation to a special cause beyond our school and church doors. Please plan to join us for some or all of these monthly worship events.

Mrs. Loftus and I find the hours we have spent with your children delightful. Thank you for sharing them with us. May God bless you all.

**Train up a child in the way he/she should go: and when they are old, he/she will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6**



During our Unit, “ Family and Friends” these are the FREE CHOICE ACTIVITIES your child may investigate:

SCIENCE CENTER: Weighing Little People; Playing the game, “Are You My Mother?”

SENSORY TABLE: Goody-Goo with Scissors; Smelly Jars

SENSORY TUB: Washing Dishes; Washing Baby Clothes; Using Clothespins
a Drying Rack

DRAMATIC PLAY: Birthday Party

JESUS TIME: Abraham is Blessed; Jacob and Rachel Have A Baby

ART: Craft Stick Families; Plexi-Glass Printing with a Friend

EASEL: Draw Family in a House Shape; Cookies with Daubers; Rainbow Colors
M&M’s

COLORS OF THE WEEK: Green, Purple

SHAPE OF THE WEEKS: Triangle, Rectangle

LETTERS OF THE WEEK: C, c; D, d



and

for

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS

If You’re Happy and You Know It

If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands,

If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands,

If you’re happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you’re happy and you know it stomp your feet...

If you’re happy and you know it shout “Hooray!”...

If you’re happy and you know it do all three...

Five Little Ducks Went Out to Play

Five little ducks went out to play,

Over the hills and far away.

Mother Duck said, “Quack, Quack, Quack”,

These opportunities will be available for your child during this unit's Free Choice Activity Time:

Art: Craft Stick Families, House Shape with Crayons

Easel: Holding Hands with Friends; Water Color Cakes for Painting

Science: "My Body" Science Box ; "Are You My Mother" Puzzle; Smelly Jars

Sensory Table: Goopy-Goo; with Scissors; Play-Dough

Sensory Tub: Sand w/Connecting People/Cars; Sensory Gloves; Corn w/Scoops and Bowls

Dramatic Play: Birthday Party

Color of the Week: Blue/Green

Letter of the Week: C, c/ D, d

Shape of the Week: Square/Triangle

SONGS AND FINGER-PLAYS

Five Little Hot Dogs

Five little hot dogs sizzling in a pan,

One got hot and it went bam!

Four little hot dogs sizzling in a pan,

One got hot and it went bam!

Three ...

Two...

One...

No little hot dogs sizzling in a pan,

The pan got hot and it went bam!

The Railroad Song

(Excellent Name Identification Skill Development)

Choo-Choo-Choo-Choo,

Choo-Choo-Choo-Choo,

Up the railroad track.

Choo-Choo-Choo-Choo,

Choo-Choo-Choo-Choo,

Then we'll come right back.

First we'll go to Emily's house,

And then we'll go to Micah's house.

Then we'll go to Kyle's house ,

And then we'll go to Taylor's house.

Repeat, identifying other children's names.

If You Are Happy and You Know It

If you are happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you are happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you are happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you are happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you are happy and you know it, stomp your feet...

If your happy and you know it shout hooray...or AMEN

If your happy and you know it, do all three...