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## Preschool News – August

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### St. John's Lutheran School

Early Childhood Program

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#### *Preschool 2 Class – Fun with Fine Motor*



Fine motor skills are those that involve a refined use of the small muscles which control the hand, fingers and thumb. With the development of these skills, a child is able to complete important tasks such as writing, feeding oneself, buttoning and zipping.



**Why is fine motor skill development important?** Little hands need to develop dexterity and strength. We, as parents and caregivers, can help this process by encouraging children to play, explore and interact with a variety of items.

*We are using scissors, markers, and exploring in the sensory tub.*



#### *Preschool 3 Class – Sharing space*

Social and emotional development are a huge part of our learning through play!

**Parallel play** describes activities where students are divided into pairs or small groups and work on the same activity simultaneously. **Associative play** happens when children ask each other questions and work toward a common goal. **Social play** (cooperative) happens when children share ideas and tools, and establish rules and guidelines.



#### Upcoming Events

**September 2**

Labor Day – No School

**September 8**

Chicken Dinner

**September 9**

Culver's Night

**September 13**

School Picture Day

**September 20**

Preschool Family Night

**Sept 30 – Oct 4**

Scholastic Book Fair



## Preschool 4 – Independent Choices



Fours are beginning to develop a good sense of reasoning and are capable of using their negotiation skills to solve problems. Sometimes preschoolers choose not to react right away, or they are so focused on a task that they forget to respond. This can help them learn natural consequences.

Four year olds have unique personalities and preferences. They need opportunities to make choices. Some children need time to observe before making decisions and some may be more impulsive.

Preschoolers are able to make reasonable choices if adults help them by not giving too many directions at one time and making sure that the choices are age-appropriate and clearly understood.



## Preschool 4 – Pretend Play



Have you ever listened in as your child engages in imaginary play with their toys or friends? You will probably hear some words and phrases you never thought they knew! Pretend play helps your child understand the power of language. They learn that words give the means to reenact a story or organize play.

This process helps your child to make the connection between spoken and written language — a skill that will later help him learn to read.



## Listening to Directions

Just as learning styles differ from child to child, so does a preschooler's ability to process directions. Children need time and positive reinforcement to accomplish individual tasks.

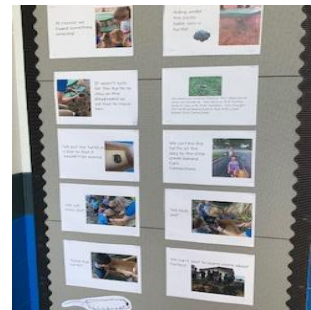
*Science and Math Readiness*



Outdoor learning provides children with hands-on experiences in nature. Most children learn better by using their senses.

These hands-on experiences cultivate a love of nature and get them interested in our natural resources.

Outdoor environments naturally inspire children to be more physically active.



**Project Approach** refers to a set of teaching strategies which enable teachers to guide children through in-depth studies of real world topics. As school started, our students had interest in caterpillars, turtles, jungle animals and our bodies. We can't wait to see where our explorations take us this year!