

January 2012



Tidbits

Early Childhood Education Newsletter of the Nebraska District LCMS

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From
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I pray that each of you had a joyful Christmas with family and friends. Hopefully it was also a time to relax and rejuvenate as you ponder the New Year - 2012.

January



Developmentally Appropriate

Having a Developmentally Appropriate classroom entails educating other teachers, staff members, parents, others who visit your classroom, and prospective families. One way to do this is to put signs at the various center stations. Make a sign for each area listed below, laminate and post them.

These signs serve several functions:

- 1) To help adults understand why play is an important part of the learning process
- 2) To inform others of what skills are being developed in each area
- 3) To enable others to see why each area is important to a child's development
- 4) To enable you to address any questions that may arise from others about your activities and classroom
- 5) To enable a teacher aide or volunteer in assisting the children in each area
- 6) To assist you in making sure each area of learning is being covered and that the children are experiencing a variety of appropriate activities



Spotlight—Redeemer Lutheran Preschool, David City

Happy New Year and God's Blessings to You!

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool began 10 years ago after the church building was renovated. A new fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms left the old basement empty and the perfect space for a preschool. We started in January 2001 with a two day per week program for 3-year-olds because there were very few programs for that age in our community. Since then, we have added a four day per week program for 4 & 5-year-olds. Our classes are a little different than most preschools because the 4 & 5-year-olds come each morning and the 3-year-olds join them on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have done this for the past few years and find that it works very well. Our mission and goal is to reach out to the children and their families in our church and community with the good news of Jesus Christ, in a loving and nurturing educational environment.



Redeemer Lutheran Preschool students

Peggy Palomaki is the Director and Teacher at the Preschool. She has a Bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University. She began teaching preschool at David City Public Elementary School before starting the program at Redeemer. Her husband, David, is the Pastor of Redeemer as well as Immanuel Lutheran Church at Rising City. They have three grown sons: Andrew, who lives and works in Lincoln; Michael, who will be finishing his teaching degree at Concordia in Seward in May; and Philip, who is a sophomore at UNL. When the program first began, volunteers from the church and students'

mothers would help in the preschool. This year there are two paid teacher aides. Charlotte Tebbe helps one day a week and is the substitute teacher. She and her husband, Greg, have three children: Anthony 14, Bethany 11, and Paul 2. Merrill Wood also helps one day a week. She is the daughter of John and Alice Wood. We are blessed to have both of them working in our preschool. Their love of children and love for Jesus are evident in all they do.



Mrs. Tebbe helping with a painting project

Over the years there have been so many comments from the children that make us stop and realize how important our work is. Most of our students are not members of our church. Some have other church affiliations and some have no church home. We have had some families join our church as a result of attending our preschool. A few of the children have also been baptized after their parents joined. What a blessing and joy it is to see how the Holy Spirit works in the children and their families.

Every day we have Worship Time where we hear God's Word, learn Bible Bops, sing lots of songs, and learn to pray. Sometimes we ask what the children would like to pray for, and it is evident in their young lives that they have many things going on that they want God to hear about. Recently, we had a young woman in our community die in a motorcycle accident. She was a good friend of a mother of one of our students. At prayer time, that little girl asked God to be with her mommy because she was sad. What a great opportunity for us to talk about life, death, salvation, and heaven.



A field trip to the fire station

Some of the special things we do throughout the year are field trips to the fire station, dentist's office, and pumpkin farm. We have a Christmas program and graduation program. In the spring, we have a parent/grandparent day where the children can have one, two, and sometimes four adults following them around for a typical day. We have extra projects for them to do with their special guests. During the season of Lent, we collect items for Blue Valley, our local food pantry, and then we deliver the items together. Easter is always exciting as we incubate eggs for 3 weeks and watch little chicks hatch the week of Easter. We have also watched caterpillars turn into butterflies. This gives us lots of opportunities to talk about Jesus' resurrection!

As we prepare these little ones for their elementary years, we realize the most important thing we can teach them is that Jesus loves them and is always with them. When the children leave our preschool, it is our hope they know Jesus as their Savior. That is the joy we have in teaching.



Enjoying the playground