

St John Child Development Center



Director Lisa Aring

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NOTES FROM MRS. ARING

If you have been reading our newsletter, you have noticed that I have been highlighting our philosophy at St. John CDC. The fourth section of our philosophy follows (my explanation is italicized):

We Believe

"The young child is a gift from God," (Psalm 127:3), and learns best about God's Word through experimentation and exploration. Therefore, the early childhood program plans developmentally appropriate activities and values play as an avenue for learning. While learning is encouraged it should not be hurried.

Play is the way children learn. When children enjoy learning through play, learning becomes fun! As we are open-ended in what we do, we can encourage the child to learn at their own pace and ability. PLAY IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN!! Play is the way children learn to figure out the world. Play provides a basis for all following learning. Parents sometimes get hung up on what a child can memorize (like the alphabet.) While children do learn these things, most things that are

abstract like letters make more sense in the context of life and experiences. Children are concrete learners. That means they need physical things to work with to learn. The exciting thing about teaching little ones is watching their faces light up when they figure something out. That is the joy of learning, and that joy should stay with them throughout school.

Readiness!! Is my child ready?

That is a tough question today! Preschool teachers everywhere wish that the elementary school curriculum was more developmentally focused. There has been pressure to shove the curriculum down to "make us smarter." Unfortunately, that doesn't work. Children need to be ready and not all are ready at the same time. What happens is that children become frustrated and don't like school if they aren't able to be successful. This puts more pressure on preschool teachers to convey readiness information to parents. We want children to be as successful as possible and to love school.

What is "readiness?"

Some think readiness is knowing your letters and numbers, but that is only a small part of



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readiness—and knowing every one of them isn't necessarily needed.

Some readiness skills are as follows:

- Understanding language and directions.
- Able to complete a task that has been asked of them.
- Able to sit and listen for 20 minutes.
- Able to respect adults and follow directions.
- Able to get along with peers and work with them.
- Able to hold a pencil and scissors and control it.
- Awareness of their environment—to know what is going on around them.
- Able to count one to one past 15.
- Able to control emotions and calm themselves.

One thing that might be surprising is that social-emotional maturity is even more important than the ability to memorize the names of letters.

In all my years of teaching 4/5-year-olds, I found that it was hard for some parents to “hold back” their children. In the true perspective, we are not holding back, we are giving them the gift of time to be the best that they can be! With the social pressures that come earlier and earlier, it is even more important that we give them the chance to have a positive school experience and to be developed socially.

Blessings,
Lisa Aring
Director



[2024-2025 St. John CDC Calendar](#)

MAY

- 3 No School Seward Elementary
- 3 No Magnolia Preschool
- 3 STJ 11:30 Dismissal
- 13 Education Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 16 STJ 11:20 Dismissal Last Day
- 22 Seward 11:30 Dismissal Last Day
- 22 Last Day for Magnolia Preschool
- 23 Last Day 23-24 Session
- 24 CDC CLOSED Prof. Dev.**
- 27 CDC CLOSED Memorial Day**
- 28 First Day 24-25 Session

JUNE

- 3 CDC CLOSED for Ed Conference**
- 3-7 VBS at St. John (at CDC?)
- 17-21 Summer Horizon at St. John (if signed up)

CDC CLOSED

The St. John CDC will be **CLOSED May 24-27 for Professional Development and Memorial Day.** Also June 3rd to attend an Education Conference.

WELLNESS POLICY

Children must be fever/vomit/diarrhea free for 24 hours without the aid of medication before returning to school.

SCHOOL AGE



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Please watch your email for a Google Form to sign-up for care for no school days. All that register will be charged the \$18 No School Day Fee regardless of attendance.

MAGNOLIA

The Magnolia room will not meet on May 3rd due to a no school day for Seward Elementary. Magnolia's last day will be Thursday, May 22nd.

NICO SAYS THANK YOU!

Nicodemus Comfort Dog Team Says "Thank You"

The Comfort Dog Team thanks St. John first of all for allowing this ministry of comfort to happen in the St. John School, CDC and life of the congregation. St. John has fully embraced this ministry, and we were recently reminded of that with the donation of the school's 2nd Quarter Chapel Offerings and the proceeds from the CDC's Lenten Meal. This shared passion for ministry is truly appreciated!



BEFORE 7AM CARE

If your child needs care before 7AM please let the office know, CDC@stjohnseward.org or 402-643-3122, no later than 3PM the day before. This gives us enough time to make sure that only the classes that need care are staffed before 7AM. Thank you for helping us keep our staffing cost down!

HOT LUNCH

To ensure that your child gets a hot lunch ordered, please make sure you let us know **no later than 8:30am** if your child will be coming in late. Students arriving after 8:30am, who did not call or make arrangements with their teacher, will need to bring a cold lunch. Remember we are a nut free facility.

BREAKFAST



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School Age breakfast is served from 7:00-7:20am. Toddler and preschool breakfast is from 7:30-7:50am. If you are running behind and won't make it to the classroom before 7:15/7:45, please consider bringing an alternative breakfast/snack for the car if they weren't able to eat at home. **No outside food inside the classroom please!**

ABSENT

If you know your child is going to be absent, please let us know in advance or through the ProCare App by 8:30am, so we don't order them lunch.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

If someone other than a parent will be doing drop off or pick up, please let your child's lead teacher know. This is the best way to get the information to our afternoon staff. **No drop offs or pick ups between noon and 3.** This is when children are napping and it's very disruptive to the rest of the class. Please check with your child's teacher for their room's specific nap schedule.

EDUCATION BOARD

A regular meeting of the education board will occur at 7 pm on Monday, May 13th in the Heritage Room. The last meeting of the 23-24 school year will be June 12th. Please feel welcome to review the Education Board Visitor Policy by clicking the link in [this form](#).

SEE TO LEARN

See to Learn Month focuses on free vision screenings for 3-year-olds

See to Learn is a statewide program that provides free comprehensive vision assessments for 3-year-olds, regardless of income, in the offices of participating Doctors of Optometry.

The assessment includes vision testing, testing of eye alignment and a check of eye health. The See to Learn assessments by optometrists look for potential vision issues beyond what is possible to identify in a pediatrician's office or from a vision screening children may receive later in school.

To locate a See to Learn optometrist who provides free vision screenings for 3-year-olds, visit seetolearn.com.

PARENTING RESOURCES

In 1995, Dolly Parton launched an exciting new effort, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee, USA. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families. The new program gave each child a specially selected book each month. By mailing high quality, age appropriate books directly to their homes, Dolly wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, she could ensure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income.

Since its launch, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has set and surpassed many goals and milestones. National replication, which started in 2000, allowed more and more communities to adopt the program. State-wide coverage was established in Tennessee in 2004. Furthermore, international growth provided expansion in Canada (2006), United Kingdom (2007) and Australia (2014).

The first book order in 1995 totaled just over 1,700. Today, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library sends more than one million books per month to children around the world inspiring them to Dream More, Learn More, Care More and Be More.

[Imagination Library](#)

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES



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We now have six new Little Free Libraries in our community! You are encouraged to both take books and add books to the libraries, so that we can all keep reading. There are books for children, teens and adults at all locations!

Plum Creek Park, Wake Memorial Park (Ironwood Drive), National Guard Museum playground, Cottonwood Park (behind Casey's), Parade of Flags and St. John Lutheran Church.



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

St John Lutheran Church
919 N Columbia Ave
Seward, NE 68434
(402) 643-2985



Pastor Nathan Scheck
nathan.scheck@stjohnseward.org
(402)643-2983 ext 120

Sunday Worship	8:30AM & 11AM
Sunday School	10AM - 10:45
Saturday Worship	5:30PM

To reach our YouTube channel, please visit [stjohnseward.org](https://www.youtube.com/channel/StJohn) and click on the link, or click here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/StJohn>

MEET PASTOR SCHECK

Meet Pastor Nathan Scheck, our associate pastor!

You may be seeing him at drop-off and pick-up, or hear your kids talk about him visiting their classroom.

Take a moment and introduce yourself! If you or your



family should need any pastoral care, please feel free to reach out to your teacher, Mrs. Aring, or Pastor Scheck directly. nathan.scheck@stjohnseward.org or call 643-2983 ext. 120.

