

St John Child Development Center



Director Lisa Aring

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NOTES FROM MRS. ARING

Why Is a Quality Early Childhood Program Important?

The Critical Early Years: Birth to Age Eight

Birth to age eight represents a foundational period in a child's development. During these years, the brain undergoes significant growth in cognitive, emotional, and physical domains. It is essential for children to engage in hands-on activities such as sensory play, art, science, construction, and building experiences. These activities stimulate development and foster curiosity.

Developing Essential Skills Through Play

Literacy skills begin to take shape through opportunities for storytelling, reading, reciting poems, and participating in dance. Social skills are cultivated as children interact with others, engaging in cooperative play and learning to solve problems together.

Caregivers play a vital role as facilitators, creating an environment that supports these learning experiences and building on each child's individual interests and abilities.

Fostering Faith and Trust

Most important in early childhood is the nurturing of faith. In the first four years of life, children learn to trust those around them. This trust extends to spiritual learning, as they are gradually introduced to faith concepts and learn to trust and believe in God.

Caregivers support this aspect of development by providing instruction in faith that is appropriate to the child's developmental stage, further enhancing the child's growth in this important area.

Qualified Educators and Program Excellence

St. John Child Development Center employs qualified educators to facilitate these programs. Five staff members have undergone comprehensive instruction in faith-based education and earned their Lutheran Training Diploma. Our regular staff participate in 24 hours of annual training focused on Early Childhood development, which fulfills the requirement for the Step 5 Award under Nebraska Step Up to Quality.

Blessings,

Lisa Aring

Director



St John Child Development Center



We are limited to 25 students, so please plan accordingly. There is a \$20 no school day fee for all that sign-up.

MAGNOLIA

The Magnolia room will not meet on March 9th or 16th, due to the No School Days for Seward Schools.

2025-2026 St. John CDC Calendar

MARCH

- 5 Chapel with Pastor Bruick
- 9 No Seward Elementary
- 9 No Magnolia Preschool
- 12 Chapel with Ms. Mertens
- 13 CDC CLOSED**
- 16 No School STJ/Seward/STV
- 16 No Magnolia Preschool
- 19 Chapel with Tim Oberdieck
- 26 Chapel with Pastor Bartels

APRIL

- 2 No School STJ
- 3-6 CDC CLOSED for Easter**

CDC CLOSED

The CDC will be CLOSED Friday, March 13th for Professional Development and April 3rd - 6th for Easter.

SCHOOL AGE

Please watch your email for a Google Form to sign-up for the No School Days on March 9 & 16.

PASTA NIGHT

Thank you for another successful Pasta Night! We served 275 people and raised over \$2000! A special thanks to Regina Nitz for all of her hard work organizing the meal. And Ben and Terrin Mohl for the generous beef donation.

2025 STATEMENTS

2025 Billing Statements were emailed the first week of January. Email Kari Huntington at kari.huntington@stjohnseward.org if you have any questions.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event St. John Child Development Center must close due to inclement weather, an announcement will be posted on Facebook, on Procare and an email will also be sent to all families. We will **open at 8:00am if Seward Public Schools call a no school day or late start due to winter weather.** Making sure that there is time to get roads cleared for the safety of all is our goal. You must let us know no later than 8:30am if your child will be coming in so we are sure to have enough staff and food for your child. Breakfast will not be served on these days. Please be aware that we never want to make things inconvenient, but we have to make decisions to ensure our students and their families are safe.



St John Child Development Center

ADULT HANDS ONLY

Please remember that all doors and key pads are for **Adult Hands Only**. This is for the safety of the children so they do not enter or exit the building without an adult.

WELLNESS POLICY

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

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 8:20AM** if your child will be coming in late. Students arriving after 8:20AM, who did not call or make arrangements with their teacher, will need to bring a cold lunch. Remember we are a nut free facility.

SCHOOL YEAR BREAKFAST

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 your teacher 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 2:30.** 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.

TRY NEW FOODS

Many young children are hesitant to try new foods. It is completely normal for children to reject foods they have never tasted before. Make food fun! Help your child develop healthy eating habits by getting him or her involved and making food fun! Get creative in the kitchen.

[Helping Children Try New Foods](#)

PARENT HANDBOOK

[2025 CDC Parent Handbook](#)

EDUCATION BOARD

The next meeting of the 25-26 school year will be March 23rd at 7 pm in the Heritage Room . Please feel welcome to review the Education Board Visitor Policy by clicking the link in [this form](#).



St John Child Development Center

ST JOHN BOOK FAIR

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BOOK FAIR

ST. JOHN, SEWARD

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Shop a wide variety of books for all ages & interests

Mar. 3-5th Chapters
9am-7pm Tues
9am-5:30 Wed & Thu

Online purchases count toward the fair, too! Just add St. John Book Fair in the comments of your order.

www.sewardchapters.com

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.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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



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

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

To reach our YouTube channel, please visit stjohnseward.org and click on the link, or click here: www.youtube.com/channel/StJohn

LENT

Lenten Midweek Series: The Battle of the Soul

Services Wednesdays, Feb. 18 – Mar. 25, 10am and 6:30pm; meals at 4:45pm

Ash Wednesday Communion Worship/Imposition of Ashes 1/2 hour prior to each service.

"Abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul." (1 Peter 2:11)

You get cut off and rage leaps forth. A friend's vacation pictures stir resentment. A third drink seemed fine, until you snapped at your kids. In a world of constant comfort and distraction, we can forget that our hearts are a spiritual battleground. This Lent we explore the ancient tradition of virtues and vices, uncovering how sin deforms our desires and how the Spirit of Jesus frees us to bear the fruit of faith.

