

It's all in your perspective.

Whew, the beginning of the year is busy, it's almost overwhelming. Wow, it's amazing how much is already happening at Aldersgate Preschool.

I bet you responded to the first sentence with a little apprehension. While both of these statements talk about our first few days at school they come at it with a little different perspective. At Aldersgate we strive to perceive and share the positive aspects of our day, our job, your children, our curriculum, etc. We could focus on the many hours of prep our staff do behind the scenes, the technological issues that we often struggle through, etc. but instead I am proud to say our staff do a good job of focusing on the positive outcome of our efforts.

During our August all staff meeting we watched, for a second time, the Conscious Discipline video about positive intent. This concept encourages us to think about positive intent in a different way. We have the opportunity to perceive another person's actions or words in whatever way we choose. Unless they tell us specifically, we often don't know why someone is doing or saying something. For instance, a child grabs all the markers at a group activity. We can think "Wow, he is grabby and selfish. He doesn't want to share any crayons." Or, we can think, "He wants to be sure he has enough crayons and he doesn't know the words to make sure that happens." Can you see how a person might respond differently just because of what we made up about the child's intentions. This concept can also transfer to our everyday life: that car that cuts you off in traffic, the person with too many items in the speedy checkout, etc. How we perceive someone's intentions affects how we react. You can see how this concept can really alter our interactions with children, really with anyone. (FYI—these videos are available to check out. Just let the office know you would like to be on the list.)

Another related aspect of the positive perspective is stating your requests to children in the positive. I personally believe, "No" or "Don't" become words children perceive as a negative to their personal worth. Think instead of what you want your child to be doing. "Use your walking feet." "Hold my hand so we can be safe." Blocks are for building. If you want to throw something let's go play with the balls." "Say to your brother, 'I want a turn.'" It becomes a pretty powerful tool once you get your brain trained to think this way. Also, imagine how much more positively you will view your day once you are saying so many positive things.

I will end with a personal and positive note. I am so blessed to have so many families, staff and friends caring about me and praying for my health. I thank God for each of you.

Miss Cyndi

Dates worth noting!

September 19

Curbside pick-up and drop-off begins

September 29

9:00 a.m. and 12:30

Devotion Worship

Join us for songs and a short message right after arrival

September 30

Scholastic Book

Orders due.

October 6

5-7 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL

Come join the fun!

October 14

OPEN

even though Olathe Schools are closed

October 18-21

CLOSED

For Conferences

(Olathe schools are open on the 18th and 19th but we will be closed those additional days. No Discovery Days classes on these days as well.)

October 31

OPEN

even though Olathe Schools are closed



Did You Know?

- We still have a couple openings in our Discovery Day 1 (Tuesday and Wednesday), Purple class, Lunch and Brunch Bunch, and Enrichment classes.
- The playground is available for your use. All of our families are invited to play on our playground

in the evenings or on weekends. We just ask that you closely supervise your children, close the sandbox covers as you found them, park bikes, put balls away and throw any trash in the can. ENJOY!

Becoming “Einsteins” Through Play

I very much enjoyed leading parent orientation meetings this year. I love talking about our program here at Aldersgate Preschool, describing our philosophy, and sharing about the wonderful things that go on here. During the meeting, I shared that at Aldersgate, we believe that children learn through play. We want your children’s experiences here at the preschool to be meaningful, engaging, and authentic.

At Aldersgate Preschool, we want every child to:

- Develop at their own rate
- Embrace and express themselves creatively through art and play activities
- Learn to solve problems and do things independently
- Become secure and self-confident
- Develop pride in working cooperatively with others and feel a part of the school and class community
- Cultivate positive relationships with their peers and teachers
- Learn to understand and verbalize their own emotions
- Respect others and build impulse control in regards to personal safety and health



When you ask your child what they did at preschool and he/she responds with, “I played,” this is so true. And while your child is “playing” here at Aldersgate, there is so much learning taking place. Take a minute and try to view your child’s activities in the same way we do here at the preschool:

When a child plays with playdough... they are strengthening their hands to be strong enough to eventually hold a pencil.

When a child stacks blocks... they are learning about balance, gravity, and patience.

When a child uses the parachute during large motor... they are learning about cooperation, exercising their muscles, practicing listening skills, and investigating how the material reacts with air and movement.

And while your child is “playing,” the teachers at Aldersgate are:

- Observing a child’s play in order to gauge each child’s development and needs
- Modeling positive communication and social skills
- Providing environments for children that promote creativity and optimum learning through play
- Encouraging children to be independent and do things themselves in order to provide that that “sense of accomplishment”
- Acknowledging and respecting a child’s feelings and ideas
- Guiding children through resolving conflicts and solving problems
- Creating educational experiences that challenge and enrich a child’s life
- Planning lessons that teach pre-math and pre-reading concepts with concrete materials in a fun way.

Your children are so hard at work growing, developing, and learning. Just as Cyndi discussed in her own article, perspective is so important. The next time that you see your child actively playing, take some time to observe. Just the other day, I watched my own child as she traded marbles with a friend. They were picking and choosing which ones they wanted and as they did this, I was amazed at the way they worked out who was going to get which marble. Then they began sorting the marbles according to size, then according to color, and so on. From there, they spent some time really looking at the marbles and talking about which ones were their favorite and why. What were the educational benefits of what they were doing? They had practiced oral language and negotiating skills while investigating and classifying marbles. Science, math, and oral language had all been practiced in this small act of play!

Shelly Todd—Staff and Curriculum Development Coordinator

Songs, Poems & Prayers

Pairs

*God gave me a pair of hands.
I can clap them.
God gave me a pair of eyes.
I can blink them.
God gave me a pair of thumbs.
I can tap them.*

*God gave me a pair of feet.
I can hop them.
God gave me a pair of ears.
I can wiggle them.*

*Dear Jesus, Thank you for making me, me.
Amen*

You created every part of me. Psalm 139:13

*From: Little Vistas for Toddlers
by, Mary Manz Simon*



Boredom Busters for September

*Bake a yummy treat with apples.

*Go on a hike, collect leaves and compare them. How are they the same? How are they different?

*Do leaf rubbings with paper and crayons.

*Do apple prints. Cut apples in half and dip in paint.

*Draw a chalk outline of your body and then decorate it.

*Go on a treasure hunt. Can you find: an acorn, a long stick, a cicada shell, a pine cone, a caterpillar, a mailbox?



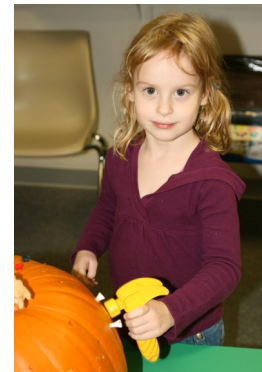
Coming Soon:

Fall Festival!

Mark your calendars for
Thursday, October 6th
5-7 pm

Join the fun as we celebrate in Worship together (5-5:30pm) then enjoy a hotdog dinner, carnival type games, art and other activities.

It's a great way to connect with your Aldersgate family!



It is right and good to give thanks!

We express our appreciation to:

- Discovery Days parents for their patience in understanding the importance of the ease-in schedule.
- Everyone for sending in your Olathe HyVee receipts.
- To all of our families for trusting us to care for your precious children.

*I thank my God every time I
remember you. Philippians 1:3*

Giggles & Grins

Enjoy actual anecdotes from
our Aldersgate kids.

- While writing on the whiteboard, "My hands are all markerly."
- To a teacher, "You hugged me so hard, some snot dripped out of my nose."



He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Matthew 9:36-37

Aldersgate

PRESCHOOL



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Mission Statement:

The purpose of establishing a preschool at Aldersgate United Methodist Church is to provide opportunities within a Christian atmosphere to meet the educational and social needs of young children in both the congregation and the community.

Program Goal:

To provide a safe, nurturing, Christian environment where young children can explore and discover, through age appropriate activities, the wonders of God's world.

Worship at Aldersgate United Methodist Church:

Every person is invited to join our worship and Christian education experiences of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. There are greeters each Sunday morning that will assist you in finding Sunday School classrooms or the Worship Center. Please note the following times and schedules:

- 8:30 am Worship and Kidz Worship for children ages 3 through 10 years. Nursery care is available.
- 9:45 am Sunday School classes are offered for ages 1 through adult. A greeter will be glad to assist you in finding a class that may interest you and/or your children.
- 11:00am Worship and Kidz Worship for children ages 3 through 10 years. Nursery care is available.



Kids of all ages are already so busy learning through play!