

Dear Bear Parents,

9/23/15

We are off and running! It has been an exciting first two weeks of school. We have met new friends, adjusted to new routines, eaten lunch at school, met new teachers...

In the classroom we are focusing on...

- taking care of each other and the space and materials we share
- writing our name
- enjoying Don and Audrey Wood books
- making books ourselves (introducing parts of a book, book orientation, first/next/last, author and illustrator and emphasizing "people write books and you can too")
- one to one correspondence (the basis for both numeracy and literacy development)

Our classroom jobs have also been a big focus for the bear class. Every child has a classroom job every day. Students have the same job for a week and will get a chance to do each of the jobs. We even have a book of job descriptions! Our classroom jobs are not merely housekeeping. They are meaningful jobs and are designed to help us take care of our classroom, our pets and each other. One of our jobs related to taking care of each other is a "Well Wisher." The Well Wisher announces to the group during our first meeting whether anyone is absent so that we can wish them well while they are away from us. The Well Wisher also leads our goodbye song at the end at the end of the day.

(sung to the tune of the Farmer and the Dell)

We wish you well
We wish you well
All through the day today,
We wish you well



As teachers, we are observing, listening and working with small groups to identify the strengths and interests of the children. Identifying the abilities and interests of the students informs our teaching, our choice of materials, our relationships with the children and will help us to identify a topic for our first project!

Next week we will also be working on quantifying, recognizing and writing numerals 0-9. You will notice a change in our sign-ins as we practice writing numerals ☺ It is going to be a great year!

Thank you for sharing your child with us,

The Bear Team (Stacy, Cathy, Lisa and Kelli)

*Attached is a little homework assignment. You will eventually get the photos back, but we would like to keep the photos at school for most of the school year. Please choose your photo accordingly ☺