

Alverno Early Learning Center

November 2017



Thanks to our Parent Readers

A big thank you to all the parents and grandparents who joined us during "Read a Book Week". As a parent you are able to enrich our program by sharing your gifts and talents. Please talk to your child's classroom teacher if you would like to spend as little as 15 minutes in the classroom playing an instrument, leading a movement activity, reading a book or assisting in an art project.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 9

Stone Soup Lunch for Parents

Wednesday, November 15

Spring Registration for **students and staff/faculty only**

Tuesday, December 5

Annual Cookie Sale

Wednesday, December 6

Pajama Day

Upcoming Center Closings

Thanksgiving Break

Closed on November 23 - 24

December Break

Closed beginning December 20
Return on January 2, 2018

We Need Your Help!

The Early Learning Center has held national accreditation since 2005. We are currently in the self-study phase of our fourth re-accreditation. This period of self-study is an in-depth review of our program and includes input from staff, administrators and families. Later in November we will ask all families to complete a Parent Survey for each of your enrolled children. The National Accreditation Commission requires that we have a 60% return rate for the survey to be valid. For each survey you return you will be eligible to enter a raffle for a prize basket. Please watch for the survey on your child's locker.

Wanted: Homemade Holiday Baked Goods

Please consider donating **homemade** holiday baked goods for our 22nd annual cookie sale fundraiser being held on Tuesday, December 5 in the college's La Verna lobby. This is the ELC's only major fundraiser with proceeds going towards the purchase of classroom equipment. Past top selling items include chocolate chip cookies, peanut blossoms, oatmeal cookies, holiday breads and gluten free items. Look for a flyer on your child's locker with detailed instructions.

Thanks in advance!

Congratulations!!

The following staff members will be recognized at Alverno College's annual employee celebration dinner for their years of service on Monday, November 13:

- Diane Behrens-Groh 30 years Room 2
- Elizabeth Garcia 15 years Room 4

Having long tenured staff is one of the many reasons that Alverno Early Learning Center is a step above the rest!

Stay Connected Online!

This newsletter can be found electronically at:

<https://www.alverno.edu/academics/resourcesforstudents/earlylearningcenter/>

November 2017

Providing Opportunities for Risk-Taking

By Teresa Gonsoski, *Community Playthings*

The Importance of Creating a "Yes" Environment for Children

When was the last time you took a risk? How did you feel? When children take risks and succeed, they feel proud and self-confident. When things don't go as planned, they feel frustrated, learn that things don't always happen as predicted, and maybe even decide to try it again.

Risk is a vital component of children's play. It allows children to be challenged, to face uncertainty, to problem-solve, to work with others to find a solution, and to think outside the box. All of these qualities serve to expand children's cognitive, physical, and social-emotional abilities. They become the building blocks for later learning and managing of experiences, both throughout school and as an adult.

Allowing children to take risks in their play gives them the opportunity to develop the use of their judgment. When a child starts to climb the side of the play structure, our first instinct might be to say, "Don't go up that high." In taking away the experience from the child, however, he never learns what might be unsafe about climbing. He also never learns to balance his feet, grip tightly, and steady himself if he slips. He definitely doesn't get the opportunity to figure out how to climb down after going up. He may later find himself in a situation—perhaps his friends are climbing a tree in the neighborhood, out of view of an adult's eye—in which he doesn't feel comfortable participating because he never learned to climb. Or maybe he does climb and falls because he never learned how to do it!

Risk-taking can also occur in activities that are less gross motor-centered. A child can take a risk and explore gooey sensory materials. Perhaps a child who has never wanted to get her feet wet finally does, shoes and all. Risks can happen when exploring real tools, such as scissors or a mallet, that are a bit beyond the child's developmental level. When the child decides to give it a try, even when the adults present don't think he has the capability to do it, he is taking a risk.

When we support children in taking risks, we give them the chance to learn something new about themselves, their physical abilities, and their thought processes.

Our Mission

Alverno Early Learning Center exists to promote educational and personal development of every child and staff member who enters our doors. We will respect every child, parent and co-worker by keeping the lines of communication open and confidentiality a priority.

Our Philosophy

Alverno Early Learning Center believes in high quality care and education for each child. Our program is based on the philosophy that:

- Children grow and develop through active exploration in a warm and nurturing environment.
- We believe in the uniqueness of each child and strive to meet the individual needs of each child.
- We provide a variety of educational experiences that place emphasis on child involvement and decision-making.
- Activities are focused to enhance social, emotional, cognitive and language development.

Hours:

Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Phone:

(414) 382-6076

Administration:

Barb Groshek—Manager
Kathy Moosavi—Program Coordinator

Serving Alverno College since 1969!

