

# Alverno Early Learning Center

September 2018



## Fall in Love With Reading Ten Simple Things You Can Do at Home (from naeyc for families)

There are many ways to enjoy reading with your child. Here are a few ways to make reading a fun part of everyday life.

1. **Develop family reading routines and rituals:** Find a regular time of day that you can dedicate to story time.
2. **Read what interests your child:** The nutrition facts on the cereal box, newspapers, and maps all make great reading material if your child is interested.
3. **Try books that reflect your daily experiences:** Making connections to topics you read about is a fun way to keep children engaged.
4. **Let your child select books:** When you visit the library, let your child choose books.
5. **Reread your child's favorites:** Rereading a familiar book offers children a chance to absorb information over time.
6. **Encourage storytelling:** Children love to tell their own version of a favorite book.
7. **Have fun while reading:** Using props, acting out a story or adapting a story to include your child's name all make reading more fun.
8. **Change your setting:** Reading a book about insects can be exciting outdoors.
9. **Try a book that triggers your child's interest in reading:** Adam Lehrhaupt's *Do Not Open This Book!* is a great example of a book that draws children into the act of reading.
10. **Get to know your child and your own reading style:** It allows your child to understand and respect that every individual reads differently and it is okay.

## Upcoming Events

**Week of September 24:**  
Read a Book Week

**Week of October 15:**  
Sports Spectacular Week

**Thursday, November 8:**  
Stone Soup Lunch with Parents

## Scholastic Books Build Early Literacy

Each month families of the Early Learning Center are able to order children's books from Scholastic Book Clubs. Scholastic provides high quality, affordable and age appropriate books for children ages birth through eight years. Each purchase you make awards points to the center that allow us to purchase additional books for classrooms. Watch for catalogs and ordering information on the display case near the center entrance. To order online, follow the sign in directions and enter our code: **GYHTZ**

## The Role of Risk in Play and Learning

Joan Almon, Alliance for Childhood

**Real play means taking risks**—physical, social, and even cognitive. Children are constantly trying out new things and learning a great deal in the process. They love to move from adventure to adventure. They face the risk of mistakes and even of injuries, but that does not deter children. They embrace life, play, and risk with gusto, and they are prepared for a certain amount of bumps and bruises while growing up. Even a broken bone doesn't slow them down for long. Fortunately, they heal fast.

Although no one wants to see a child injured, creating an environment that is overly safe creates a different kind of danger for them. Growing up in a risk-averse society, such as we currently have, means children are not able to practice risk-assessment which enables them to match their skills with the demands of the environment. As a result, many children have become very timid and are reluctant to take risks. At the opposite extreme, many have difficulty reading the situations they face and take foolhardy risks, repeatedly landing in trouble.

### Appropriate Risk

When children are given a chance to engage freely in adventurous play they quickly learn to assess their own skills and match them to the demands of the environment. Such children ask themselves—consciously or unconsciously—“how high can I climb”, or “is this log across the creek strong enough to support me?” They become savvy about themselves and their environment. Children who are confident about taking chances rebound well when things don't work out at first. They are resilient and will try again and again until they master a situation that challenges them—or wisely avoid it, if that seems best.

As a preschool and kindergarten teacher, I liked to give my children as many opportunities to face age-appropriate risk as possible. In the various playgrounds where I taught, there were trees to climb and hills to slide down in snow, or to roll down in other seasons. Indoors, the children could build their play houses high. They played with tree stumps and stones, some heavy enough to cause injury if the children were not careful. They sewed toys using scissors and needles, and cut fruit and vegetables using knives. Overall, the children were remarkably careful, and I was constantly amazed at how quickly they mastered a new challenge and how well they handled it.

During my twenty years of teaching we occasionally experienced a mild injury that could be handled with a simple bandaid. The children learned from their mistakes and rarely repeated them. I became convinced that when children are given visible risk they rise to it and become very competent. On the other hand, hazards are to be avoided. Hazards are invisible risks that children can't see such as broken glass on an otherwise clean lawn, or a malfunction on a piece of playground equipment. Because children do not see the hazards, they cannot risk-assess them. Thus, protecting children from hazards is the responsibility of adults. But providing opportunities for children to experience age-appropriate risk is also the responsibility of adults.

## 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!*

