

# Alverno Early Learning Center

November 2016



## Coming Soon-Winter!

Outdoor play is an important part of our curriculum year round. Children enrolled at the ELC play outside daily. State licensing allows for children two years and older to go outside if the temperature (including wind-chill) is 0 degrees or above. Children under two can play outside if the temperature is 20 degrees (including wind-chill) and above. Please supply a coat, snow pants, hat, mittens and boots for your child. All items must be labeled.

## Prohibited Items in Lockers

State licensing rules and program guidelines prohibit storage of certain items in lockers.

- Children are not to bring money, food, candy or gum to the center. Food and beverages are not to be kept in lockers. Food products found in lockers will be discarded.
- Medication may not be stored in lockers. This list includes; but is not limited to sunscreen, lip balm, hand sanitizer, cough drops, creams, lotions and hair care products. Any of these items found in lockers will be discarded.
- Please see your child's classroom teacher to complete an Authorization to Administer Medication form for the above mentioned products.

## Don't Forget To Register



Students, faculty and staff must register for the January semester on **Thursday, November 17 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.** If you are a community family and wish to change your schedule this is the time to do so.

## Needed: Homemade Holiday Baked Goods

Please consider donating **homemade** holiday baked goods for our 21<sup>st</sup> annual cookie sale fundraiser being held on Thursday, December 1 in the College's La Verna lobby. This is the ELC's only major fundraiser with proceeds going toward the purchase of classroom equipment. Past top selling items include chocolate chip cookies, peanut blossoms, oatmeal cookies, sugar cookies, holiday breads and gluten free items. Look for a flyer on your child's locker with detailed instructions.

Thank you in advance!

## Upcoming Events

**November 24-25:**  
Thanksgiving Break  
**December 21-January 2:**  
Winter Shutdown

# At-Home Activities for Building Fine Motor Skills

Try incorporating these activities into the daily routine with your child:

**Kitchen projects:** Making home-made play dough strengthens muscles in the hands and fingers. Roll snakes and balls of all sizes; build with the balls and snakes. Your child can play with play dough at the counter or table while you make dinner.

Make peanut butter or sugar cookies that require the dough to be rolled into balls and smashed with a fork. Meatballs are fun and yummy, too.

**Playing Grocery Store:** Keep your canned goods on a bottom shelf. Allow your child to play grocery store—take out and rearrange the cans, sort by size, color, or content. This is a math readiness skill, too.

**Sorting silverware or setting the table:** Sorting silverware into its proper holder is a math skill; as is the patterning your child will do by laying the napkin, knife, fork, and spoon in order at each place-setting.

**Eating with chop sticks:** This is a more advanced fine motor skill, but not impossible to teach. Children in Asian countries learn quite young. Use chopsticks to pick up cotton balls, round cereal, or other small objects.

**Folding clothes:** Start with folding washcloths or towels. Fold in half, then fold again to make a quarter.

**Stringing things:** Make bracelets and necklaces by threading pasta, Fruit Loops, or beads onto pipe cleaners or thick strings. Add a pattern and you add math!

**Playing dress-ups:** Putting on coats and gloves, zipping up, snapping, buttoning, and tying shoes all help with building fine motor strength. Dressing a doll or stuffed animals is just as good, too!

**Practicing with scissors:** Start with safety scissors and a 4" strip of paper to snip, snip, snip with and make fringe. Later, draw a path on the paper to cut along. Make confetti by cutting little snips of various colored, textured, and shiny wrapping paper. Cut pictures out of magazines and make a collage. Play dough is an excellent soft material for beginners to practice scissor skills on. Roll snakes and cut them into pieces.

**Coloring and drawing:** Encourage creativity by providing a variety of art mediums. Color with hard pressure, color with soft pressure. Outline the object hard, color soft inside. Instead of coloring, have the child fill the space with little controlled circles—*pointillism*—a captivating art technique.

**Limiting technology:** Put away the electronics. Or, better yet, create your own "TV program" by making a story scroll. After drawing out the story, scene by scene, on a long piece of paper, roll the paper tightly onto a cardboard tube. Make a "screen" by cutting a window out of a cardboard box. Mount the scroll inside the box on the left. Stretch the beginning of the story across the screen and tape it to another empty roll mounted on the right side of the box. Turning the right tube to make the scroll move helps develop fine motor skills too.

From *What is Happening to Fine Motor Development?* By Marcy Guddemi, PhD, MBA

## 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

