

Maria Stein, Director



Part-day, Extended-day and Full-day Programs

**2019 - 2020
Part Time Program
Parent Handbook**

Long Hill United Methodist Children's Center
6358 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611
LHUMCC.COM
Long Hill UM Children's Center/ Facebook

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Full Time Classroom 203-268-9676
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Director

Maria Stein

Administrative Assistant

Dina Bagley

Teachers

Sara Astin

Alisa Brill

Sharyn Clark

Kristen Geraghty

Kori Hammel

Megan Jennings

Lorraine Lynch

Christina Miller

Joanie Parente

Laura Yarusavage

About our teachers:

Teachers at LHUMCC are chosen because of their warmth and love of children. Their commitment to children is outstanding. Many have degrees or certificates in Early Childhood Education. All staff attend workshops and professional meetings throughout the year.

Long Hill Children's Center
 Important Dates and Holidays: 2019 - 2020
 3-Year-Old Part Time Program

June 1	TUITION DUE
August 29 (Thurs)	Teachers Report to School
September 2 (Mon)	NO SCHOOL- Labor Day
September 3 & 4 (Tues/Wed)	Parent Orientation Visits
September 5 (Thurs)	First Day of school Tues/Thurs class ($\frac{1}{2}$ class 9-10:15 and $\frac{1}{2}$ class 10:45-12)
September 6 (Fri)	First Day of school Mon/Wed/Fri class ($\frac{1}{2}$ class 9-10:15 and $\frac{1}{2}$ class 10:45-12)
September 30 (Mon)	NO SCHOOL - Rosh Hashanah
October 1	TUITION DUE
October 9 (Wed)	NO SCHOOL - Yom Kippur
October 14 (Mon)	NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
November 5 (Tues)	Election Day- NO SCHOOL (Teacher workshop)
November 27 (Wed)	Early Dismissal @ 12:00 noon
November 28 & 29 (Thurs/Fri)	Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL
December 7(Sat)	"Breakfast w Santa" PEP Event 10-12:00
December 23- January 1	Holiday Recess—NO SCHOOL(School resumes Thurs Jan 2)
January 20 (Monday)	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day
February 1	FINAL TUITION DUE
February 14- 17	Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL (closed Fri & Mon)
March 10 & 11 (Tues/Wed)	NO SCHOOL - (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
April 4 (Sat)	"Eggstravaganza" PEP Event 10-12:00
April 10-17	Spring Recess- NO SCHOOL (School resumes, Mon April 20)
May 25 (Mon)	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
May 29 (Fri)	Last day of School

Long Hill Children's Center
Important Dates and Holidays: 2019 - 2020
4-Year-Old Part Time Program

June 1	TUITION DUE
August 29 (Thurs)	Teachers Report to School
September 2 (Mon)	NO SCHOOL- Labor Day
September 3 & 4 (Tues/Wed)	Parent Orientation Visits
September 5 & 6 (Thurs/Fri)	First Day - 4 Year Old Program
September 30 (Mon)	NO SCHOOL- Rosh Hashanah
October 1	TUITION DUE
October 9 (Wed)	NO SCHOOL - Yom Kippur
October 14 (Mon)	NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
November 5 (Tues)	Election Day - NO SCHOOL (Teacher Workshop)
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ABOUT LONG HILL CHILDREN'S CENTER:

Long Hill Children's Center is a high quality Early Education Center offering a developmentally appropriate Preschool Curriculum for three and four year olds, and now also a Pre-K Five's Program, through activities in math, science, social studies, language, literacy and creative arts.

LHCC has been an integral part of the community for over 44 years. The school has responded to the needs of the community and now serves at least 100 families. In response to the needs of working families, LHCC opened a Full Time Program in 1986. In the past 30 years approximately 3,000 children have gone through the program to become successful and enthusiastic learners.

We have strived to develop children's self-confidence and independence and to instill self-respect and respect for others. In partnership with Families, Caregivers and the Community, we provide a loving and safe environment to support our children.

OUR PHILOSOPHY:

Long Hill Children's Center offers children a preschool experience in which they will grow emotionally, socially, developmentally and cognitively. Our classroom environment encourages individuality and inquisitiveness that fosters and facilitates children to become lifelong learners through exploration, discovery, imagination and creativity.

Our Program offers your child the opportunity to interact with other children in an environment that is scaled to and planned for your child. The children are stimulated, not pressured, to ask questions, to think for themselves, and to try out new ideas. The Program is a flexible child-centered one designed to satisfy the needs of the individual child within the group. Each session follows a routine or schedule that becomes familiar to the children.

Each day the children have an opportunity to participate in a wide variety of planned and spontaneous activities. Activities such as open ended art experiences, science and cooking projects, blocks, dramatic play, preschool readiness games, songs, rhymes, finger plays and creative play are a part of each day. Learning Experience Charts, graphs, and scientific observations (data collection, organization and representation) are all presented to the children to show their own responses.

In partnership with Families, Caregivers, and the Community, we provide a developmentally appropriate, nurturing and secure setting promoting each child's unique ability to reach his or her social, intellectual and academic potential.

LONG HILL CHILDREN CENTER'S CURRICULUM:

Through the guidance of highly qualified teachers with degrees and certifications in Early Childhood Education, the children have the opportunity to creatively explore their environment and have many choices. Many of our activities will be classified as purposeful "play". Though we, as adults, look upon it as "play", the child's "play" is his "work". Play is an essential part of learning for preschool children. The skills children learn through purposeful, productive and high-level play----

- Skills in verbalization
- Vocabulary
- Language comprehension
- Problem solving
- Observation
- Empathy
- Imagination
- Role play
- Cooperation
- Independence

are foundational skills for all cognitive development.

The children in our program are always learning and developing and experiencing as they work with the materials provided. Therefore, the "play" is "guided play" because the teachers have learning goals in mind as they plan the daily activities. The curriculum follows the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards developed by the State Department and Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Education with Performance Standards and Benchmarks as criteria in the lesson planning for each child's achievement.

Each classroom provides a literacy rich environment where the physical space is thoughtfully planned and includes print that is meaningful to the children which helps them communicate messages and ideas, learn new information and concepts, and organize and express their thoughts. A literacy rich environment conveys the message that reading, writing, listening and speaking are valuable and enjoyable. The teachers act intentionally to help the children use written and spoken language throughout the day. Some of the daily planned literacy experiences are:

- Journaling
- Letter and number recognition
- Sight words
- Calendar
- Rhyming

- Sequencing
- Beginning sounds and blends
- Concepts of opposite and similar

The following core components of language and literacy are presented and taught to the children:

- Literacy as a source of enjoyment
- Vocabulary and oral language
- Phonological awareness
- Knowledge of print, letters and words
- Comprehension
- Understanding of books and other texts

As children draw, paint and work with play dough, they develop the small muscles (arm and hand) which are used in handwriting. Through these and other activities the children also develop eye-hand coordination and creative expression.

While building in the block area, children need to consider size, proportion and number--- concepts that carry over to mathematics. They learn fractions as they discover that one long block is equal to two short blocks and sequencing and comparing as they arrange blocks in order of size. Children gain cognitive skills in language and literacy as words are used to plan and build with friends, express their ideas, and discover and understand spatial relationships. While exploring with sand, water and rice, children develop early science concepts of spatial sense and measurement. As children participate in dramatic or role play they are developing social skills and are achieving a sense of community as they "become" doctors, vets, nurses, construction workers, firemen, moms, dads, teachers, scientists, chefs, farmers and wherever else their imagination takes them.

All of these preschool activities and early childhood experiences lay the foundation for future learning filled with enthusiasm and eagerness. We encourage you, as parents and caregivers, to question and comment on your child's activities and to attempt at home to reinforce in as many ways as possible the interests that your child develops.

Parent Involvement

PEP

The Parent Event Planning (PEP) Committee is a great way to be involved in our school. PEP is a parent run organization that puts together and runs two to three fun events throughout the school year for the children and families of LHUMCC.

The events that we have held in the past are: "Fall Into Fun", "Breakfast With Santa" and our "EGGSTRAVAGANZA" which was our annual Easter Egg Hunt. One year we had a "Spring Carnival" which was a great success and so much fun!

PEP doesn't take up much time -- only what you can give personally. Usually we try to hold two meetings before each event and then ask for volunteers to help get supplies; decorate; round up raffles; and/or help on the day of the event for a shift at a particular station. Events are one day only and last no more than two hours.

PEP's goal has been to continue that feeling of excitement we all have when a new school year begins and to make it last throughout the entire year. Through PEP we have raised money to donate to Hurricane Katrina Victims, the American Red Cross, Toys For Tots, Daughters of Charity, the Bridgeport Homeless Shelter, Operation Hope and The Trumbull Food Bank. In the past years we have raised enough money to purchase new playground equipment with the addition of a "Kiddie Kopter", a 5-seat "Circle Cycle", new bicycles, an "Airplane", a new laminating machine and additions to our library.

All our parents' efforts have been so successful and rewarding but we need your help to make it happen each year and to make it great. All opinions and ideas are welcome and appreciated. Please sign up to join the PEP Committee to keep the excitement alive!

Mommy & Me

Our popular "Mommy & Me" Two Year Old class will be offered at the end of September, in the mornings, with the possibility of an afternoon session, if there is interest. This program will enjoy a music class each Tuesday and a gym class each Thursday and will provide your child with so many new experiences. It will enable your toddler to come and be in a school setting with a teacher and other children and to do all the fun things the big kids do but with an added bonus -- YOU!

The "Mommy & Me" Program is offered in 3 sessions throughout the year as a Tuesday/Thursday class from 9:30 - 10:30 AM. The first session will run from the end of September through December. The second session will run from January through March. The last session will run from the end of March through May.

Enrollment is limited to 8 children and Moms per class. Your child must reach the age of two years by December 31st to be eligible for this program. Parental participation is required during class- we want you to have as much fun as your child! Please dress in clothes that you can get messy for there will be painting and play dough and glue and other mediums for exploration and play.

Enrichment Programs

An important part of LHUMCC's curriculum are regular enrichment programs. All children participate in GYM and MUSIC classes taught by teachers who have special talent and training in these areas. These classes meet once a week throughout the school year for each class assignment.

In addition, each month special programs are brought into the school as enrichments for the children. Our past programs have included the Fire Safety Program, The Dental Hygiene Program presented by Fones Dental School, The Audubon, The Maritime Center, Danny Magic, Mad Science, Terramar Marine Biology, Critter Caravan, Nappy's Puppets, Huga Tuga and "The Bubble Show". Each year we try to bring in programs to complement our curriculum.

We will also be offering Enrichment Classes from 12:00 -12:45 Mondays through Friday.

Mondays: "What's Cooking?"
Tuesdays: "What's Cooking?"
Wednesdays: "Budding Artists"
Thursdays: "NATUREQUEST"
Fridays: "Fitness Fun"

There is an extra fee for these classes and information will be given out as the school year begins.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is offered throughout the year for both Threes and Fours from 12 - 2 PM Monday through Friday. The program will have a curriculum that is an extension of their school activities. The children will bring lunch as well as their snack each Lunch Bunch day. Lunch will be preceded by indoor and outdoor activities either in the room or out on the playground.

Lunch Bunch is also offered on a per day basis at \$20 a session.

Please remember we are a Peanut and Tree Nut free school, so take a moment to check your child's lunch.

Program Description and Daily Schedule

Arrival: Children hang up coats, put away lunch boxes, and chose an activity until everyone arrives.

Morning Meeting: Teachers welcome their class and discuss with the children what the class will be doing that day.

Guided & Free Play: The children choose from a variety of planned small group and individual activities in the interest centers around the classroom. The teachers plan projects and rotate materials and props in the centers so that they adhere to a curriculum theme. Children receive individual attention from the teachers and are able to progress at their own pace.

Clean Up: The class works together to clean up the room while learning responsibility. Special clean up songs make clean up time fun.

Circle Time: The activities of the morning come together through discussions and experience charts. Learning games are played and the children participate in music, movement, and finger plays. The children learn to sit, listen, and to take turns. They may even go on an expedition to Alaska!

Snack: During snack time the children and teachers share pleasant discussions while enjoying a nutritious snack brought from home. Sometimes the class prepares a snack as a special cooking project. As the children finish cleaning up their snack, they take a book to look at quietly while others are finishing up.

Story: The children listen to a story as a group, which helps develop good listening skills.

Outside Play: The children play outside on all but rainy or severely cold days in our large play yard. The opportunity to develop large motor skills is a very important part of a balanced preschool curriculum.

Dismissal: The children return to their classrooms where they are met by their parents.

Class Schedule and Fees

Two Day Three's:

Tuesday/Thursday 3 year olds (9:00 - 12:00) - \$2,364.00

Three Day Three's:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 3 year olds (9:00 - 12:00) - \$2,859.00

Three Day Four's:

M/W/F 4 year olds (9:00 - 12:00) - \$2,859.00

Four Day Four's:

M/T/W/F or M/W/Th/F 4 year olds (9:00-12:00) - \$3,825.00

Five Day Four's:

M-F AM 4 year olds (9:00-12:00) - \$4,785.00

Pre-K Five's:

M-F AM 5 year olds (9:00 - 1:00 PM) - \$5,346.00

A non-refundable enrichment/registration fee of \$175 is due upon registration of each child. Tuition is paid in three equal installments June 1, October 1, and February 1. A \$10 late fee will be charged if tuition is not paid by the 10th of the month it is due. If tuition is not paid by the end of the month in which it is due, your child cannot continue to attend. Please make checks payable to LHUMCC and either leave your tuition check in the school office or mail it to us.

Tuition payments and fees are not refundable if withdrawal occurs.

CLOSURES/DELAYS

Please listen to WICC for announcement of Trumbull School closings/delays or you can also go to CTWeather.com and click on schools.

We will not be listed separately.

- If Trumbull public schools are *closed* because of the weather, we will also be *closed*.
- Any delay that Trumbull Public School has, regardless if it is 90 minutes, 2 hours, or 2 1/2 hours; the Children's Center will open at 10:30 AM.
- Trumbull Pre-School is announced separately and we do not adhere to their schedule.
- If Trumbull schools are dismissed early:
 - AM classes will dismiss at regular time (noon)
 - PM regular classes are cancelled
 - Lunch Bunch & all enrichments will be cancelled

Please note our make-up policy:

We allow for two snow days for each 2 day class, three snow days for each 3 day class, four snow days for the 4 day class, and five snow days for the 5 day class. We will make up snow days that exceed that number at the end of the year, with a maximum of 2 make-ups for the 2 day classes, 3 make-ups for the 3 day classes, 4 make-ups for the 4 day class, and 5 make-ups for the 5 day class.

Withdrawal

The Children's Center has a thirty (30) day probation period for children. If during the period either the parents or the Director do not wish to continue the association, the contract may be terminated.

We evaluate every child in our program. If we have a concern about the development of a child, we will share this concern with you and may recommend a professional evaluation. The Director and/or Head Teacher will work with the parents and inform them of resources in the community that may be able to assist the child and family. On occasion a child may need help that exceeds the expertise of the staff at the Center. At the Director's discretion, disenrollment at the Center may be made. In this event the Director and Head Teacher will make every effort to connect the parents and child with an appropriate setting. A child with severe behavioral problems such as biting, hitting, or any such behavior that is a threat to the safety of another child or himself may be disenrolled if efforts to change or improve the behavior are not successful.

Preparation of Your Child For School

We begin our year with an orientation with you and your child. Any questions or concerns you may have, this would be a good time to share with your teachers.

The first day of school in the Three Year Old Program is for 90 minutes with half the class broken up into two sessions. For the three's you will be given a schedule at your conference. We will serve coffee in the lounge on these days. At this time you will be given a chance to meet the parents of the children who will be going to school with your child.

Separation can be a concern. We suggest a positive approach discussing pleasant things that will happen at school, i.e., "*You'll hear stories and learn songs*", so that the child will look forward to school as a new experience to be enjoyed. Do not suggest negative occurrences that may happen. "*The teacher will punish you if you do that in school*", or "*The other children won't like you if you do that*".

"Goodbye" to the child at school, although sometimes difficult, should be made **Cheerfully, Rapidly, and Assuredly**. If good-bye is said three or four times with a worried expression, the child may well think something dreadful is about to happen to him. Your expression can tell him that he is about to have a good time and what you expect will make a big difference to him. Be sure to tell him that you will pick him up and tell him what you will be doing while he is at school.

Dress

Children seem happier and more relaxed when they are wearing clothing that they do not have to worry about. Elastic waist pants or shorts make toileting easier for them to handle. **Sneakers or any closed shoes with socks are a must for school**. Please send boots, snow pants and mittens as the weather gets colder - *labeled* with your child's name. Please also send in with your child a change of clothing in a zip lock baggie to be kept at school.

Outside Play Policy

We go outside all year round unless it is raining or there is a bitter wind-chill. Please dress children warmly!

Toileting

If your child is not yet toilet trained, parents must be available if a diaper change is necessary. Teachers will reinforce all training and provide assistance if needed. The Children's Center is not licensed for changing diapers or pull ups. Once trained your child should be able to clean his or herself and handle his or her own clothing. Please make it easier for them and have them wear elastic waist garments- something they can pull on or off easily. Please also send in a change of clothes for your child in a labeled zip lock bag that will remain at school.

Child Behavior Management

Developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) are used to manage child behavior. A problem solving approach to resolve conflicts is used along with positive reinforcement and re-direction. Developmentally Appropriate Practices also include positive guidance and setting clear limits that encourage children to develop self-control, self-discipline and positive self-esteem. There is to be continuous supervision by staff during disciplinary action.

There will be no abusive, neglectful, physical, corporal, humiliating, or frightening treatment or punishment, and no physical restraint, unless such restraint is necessary to protect the health and safety of the child or other people. The goal is to help the children solve their differences without becoming "physical" and to help them learn some beginning problem-solving skills.

Open Door Policy

Long Hill United Methodist Children's Center has an open door policy. We invite parents or other family members to visit. Please call the school office to let us know when to expect you.

Toys

In order that children not be disappointed with a broken or lost toy, we prefer that they use the toys that we provide. Please leave all toys at home.

Playground

You are welcome to use our playground if you arrive a few minutes early for class. We ask that all sand be kept in the sandbox area and that any toys used be returned to the front of the play area. Please do not leave your child or siblings unattended on the playground.

Snack Time

Please provide your child with a healthy snack, a beverage, and **two napkins**. Please do not send carbonated beverages - they explode in the thermos. Appropriate foods are fruits, non-sweetened crackers, and yogurts. Avoid sticky sweets and cookies. **We are a peanut/tree nut free school - no peanut/ tree nut products, please!** Your child's name should be clearly marked on the outside of the lunch box. Please place cold packs with lunches and snacks.

Birthday Parties

You are invited to spend a part or all of the Pre- School session with us on your child's birthday. Please feel free to bring a special story to read or another activity—just be sure to alert your child's teacher so she can plan her time. If you prefer just to visit, that's O.K. too. If your child's birthday happens to fall during a vacation or during the summer, you may schedule an "unbirthday".

Please check your class list for the number of children in your child's class and provide cups, napkins, juice, and a snack for each child.

If you are giving a birthday party at home and are planning to invite some of the children from the Children's Center, please do so by telephone or mail unless all of the children will be invited. This helps avoid hurt feelings of the children who are not included.

Bulletin Board

The bulletin boards outside of the classroom and at the end of the hallways are used as a communication tool to make you aware of what is going on at school and in the community.

Communication

As a caregiver of your child, it is important that good communication exist between home and school. If your child is experiencing a change in the home environment that may result in changes in behavior at school, it is important to notify your child's teacher. Your teacher, in turn, will keep you notified of any changes of behavior at school that she thinks may be important.

Back To School Night

The Children's Center presents a "Back To School Night" usually the first week of October. The Teachers go over their curriculum and present to the parents what to expect for the year and what they would like the children to be capable of by the end of the year. This is an information night for the parents and any and all questions and concerns will be addressed.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The school will be closed two days in March for these Conferences to take place. The Teachers will have tested and evaluated the children by this time and will present this information at the conferences. Please come with any and all questions.

Babysitting will be available during conference sessions.

Parking

If you find the parking lot to be full on certain days because of other activities taking place at the church, please use the small parking lot next to the church on Elizabeth Street.

Please DO NOT Park In Front Of The Entrances To The Building.

Please DO NOT leave any child UNATTENDED in a car.

Transportation

The school assumes no responsibility for car pools, but will assist parents in finding other families in the school who live in nearby neighborhoods, and then the parents may make their own arrangements. A list including names, addresses, and telephone numbers will be available to each family on the first day of school. May we suggest that all who participate in car pools check their automobile insurance to be certain there is adequate coverage.

Drop Off and Pickup

Our teachers will be setting up the classroom each day with special activities for your child to enjoy. Classroom doors open at the start of each session. Please keep younger siblings with you while you say goodbye so that they aren't tempted to sample the art projects and paints or play with the toys.

Late Pickup: A late fee of \$10.00 will be charged for each 15 minutes or fraction thereof. If a child is picked up late repeatedly, you may be asked to find another school.

Medication and the Sick Child Policy

Your child's health is a matter of major importance to us. If your child becomes ill while at school, you will be notified and asked to pick him up immediately. In such an event your child will be made comfortable and may be isolated from the other children until you arrive.

The following guidelines should be considered in determining when your child should be kept at home.

1. A fever of 99.5°F or above. If your child has a fever, please keep your child home. Your child should be free of fever for 24 hours without Tylenol before returning to school unless you have a note from your physician stating that the child is not contagious.
2. A constant cough, sneezing, or nasal discharge.
3. Vomiting or diarrhea. Your child should be free of symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. Symptoms of a communicable disease. These are usually sniffles, reddened eyes, sore throat, headache, rash, abdominal pain, plus a fever.
5. "Pink eye"-Conjunctivitis of the eye is extremely contagious. Your child must be on medication for 24 hrs and discharge free before being able to return to school.
6. "Lice"- Your child must be louse and "nit" free before being able to return to school.

Please take these guidelines seriously. They are for your child's protection.

We are not licensed to administer medication other than epi-pens and Benadryl for severe allergic reactions and inhalers for asthma. Please notify the Director if this is indicated for your child so that the appropriate paperwork can be registered with the school.

If your child is on antibiotics, please ask your physician to prescribe something that can be administered before and after school.

LONG HILL CHILDREN'S CENTER EVACUATION PLAN

WEATHER EMERGENCY

CHILDREN WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE BASEMENT OF BRADLEY HALL. THIS IS A STONE AND BRICK BUILDING WITH A FULL BASEMENT COMPLETELY UNDERGROUND. THERE ARE TOILET FACILITIES, A KITCHEN, AND A TELEPHONE IN THE BUILDING.

CIVIL DEFENSE EMERGENCY OR OTHER EMERGENCY THAT WOULD REQUIRE US TO LEAVE THIS SECTION OF TOWN.

PARENTS OR EMERGENCY CONTACTS WILL BE CALLED TO PICK UP THEIR CHILDREN. THOSE CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO COME IMMEDIATELY WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO NICHOLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN BUSES PROVIDED BUSES ARE AVAILABLE. THE OFFICE STAFF OR HEAD TEACHER WILL CALL TRANSPORTATION OFFICE AT (203) 452-4321 TO MAKE THIS DETERMINATION. IF NO BUSES ARE AVAILABLE THE TRUMBULL POLICE WILL BE CALLED TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION OF THE REMAINING CHILDREN TO A SAFE LOCATION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO REACH PARENTS DURING THE ENTIRE PROCESS.

FIRE PLAN

IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, CHILDREN SHALL BE TAKEN TO BRADLEY HALL. IF BRADLEY HALL IS NOT ACCESSIBLE FOR ANY REASON, THE CHILDREN SHALL BE TAKEN TO THE PLAYGROUND.

THE HEAD TEACHER OF EACH CLASS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING THE ROLL BOOK AND HEADING THE GROUP. THE ASSISTANT TEACHER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THE LAVATORIES AND CLASSROOM AND MAKING SURE THAT ALL CHILDREN ARE WITH THE GROUP. WHEN THE GROUP IS ASSEMBLED THE HEAD TEACHER SHALL TAKE ROLL CALL.

Dear Mommy and Daddy,
When you come to school and see me at play
Please keep in mind that I learn everyday
You'll see me in housekeeping, being "the Dad"
Feeding the dolls, dressing up in a hat
My play's really practice for when I am grown
Caring for and loving children of my own
When you see me use blocks of all shapes and sizes
Building skyscrapers and several high-rises
I learn complex relationships - forging a path
That lays a foundation leading to math
At art I get messy and have lots of fun
But there's also important work being done
I learn to make choices, use my arms, fingers, hands
Express thoughts and feelings and carry out plans
And when my creativity comes alive
It expands and develops for the rest of my life
Throughout my day my learning's ongoing
I learn to use words instead of hitting or throwing
I'm faced with decisions, so problems I'm solving
With this comes self-esteem, confidence, loving
When I play I learn - when I learn I feel good
About all the things that are in my world
These experiences teach me that learning is cool!
And that's what the best lesson to learn in my school
So please understand that my work is play
Each part of my school enriches my day

Mary Payson