



The ABC's of 4K



A

Aide- We will have an aide helping out in the classroom. This will be a wonderful help to both the children and myself!

Arrival and Dismissal Times- If your child is in our morning class, we will open our classroom doors at 8:15 a.m. Class will begin at 8:20 a.m. The morning session ends at 11:00. We will dismiss the children from the classroom at this time. Please wait outside the doors. This allows us to give any last minute directions or instructions without disruption.

The afternoon class begins at 12:20 p.m. We will open the classroom doors at 12:15 p.m. This session ends at 3:00 p.m. We will dismiss the children from the classroom at this time. Please wait by the front doors. This allows us to give any last minute directions or instructions without disruption.

Attendance- If your child is ill, please call Camelot at 920-922-9442 and inform us of their absence. Please leave your child's name and the reason for absence. If you are aware of an upcoming absence, please let me know through a note in your child's folder or by email.

B

Backpack- Please make sure your child comes to school each day with a backpack. It makes it much easier for them to carry things back and forth between home and school. Also, please check your child's backpack daily to remove any papers or materials they may bring home.

Big Bucks-Each child is rewarded "big bucks" when he/she has done something outstanding (helping a friend, picking up a mess that wasn't theirs, etc. These bucks can be used toward a prize from the prize box or used throughout the classroom (extra time in a center, pick a job, etc.)

Birthdays- Birthdays are a special occasion and if your child wishes, they may bring a treat to share with the class. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on your child's half birthday during the school year. We call it their pretend birthday.

Book Orders- Every month, I will be sending home a Scholastic Book Club order form for you to review. This club offers wonderful books at reduced rates. Please do not feel as though you have to order but if you choose to order, please make sure the checks are payable to Scholastic Books. Our class gets bonus points when families' order and we can use the points to purchase books and other items for the classroom.

C

Conferences- We will have scheduled Parent/Teacher conferences in October and February to discuss your child's progress and how they are doing in school. However, if you feel the need to discuss your child's progress or you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact me personally or through email czajaj@fonddulac.k12.wi.us

Communication- Communication between home and school is essential in assuring success for your child. I like to think of us as a team working together to help your child do their best. Please talk with me anytime you have anything to discuss. You can contact me before or after school, set up at time to meet, send a note or email me. I will also be sending an email at the end of each week with information for the upcoming week and any important reminders.

D

Differentiation- Because there are students with an array of ability levels, learning styles, and previous experiences that make up our class this year, your child may be learning differently than his/her peers. With this type of teaching, you can be

certain that your child's social, physical, behavioral, emotional and educational needs **will** be met in 4K this year.

E

Emergency- Please make sure your contact information is updated in case of an **emergency**. If your home, cell or work phone number changes please notify the office, and myself.

Expected Behavior- Our classroom has a minimal amount of rules that we expect from our children. Our three classroom rules are: Be kind, Be safe, be helpful. We keep the rules simple for easier understanding and cooperation. When a child is not following the classroom rules, we first reinforce the positive behaviors that we observe other students doing in hopes that they will recognize the need to change theirs. If this does not work, we ask the child to change the behavior, and as a last resort, we remove the child from the situation either to a table or to the "thinking chair". If a behavior continues, we will inform you of the situation so we can work together to resolve the behavior.

Extra Clothes- Please keep extra clothes in your child's backpack. Please include: underwear, pants, and a shirt. The clothes will remain in your child's backpack unless we use it for a mess or if your child has an accident.

F

Family Projects- We will be sending home a creative activity for you to do with your child. Please send these completed projects back to school.

Filling Buckets- One way to try to teach children social behaviors is through a book entitled "How Full is Your Bucket?" by Tom Rath. The book explains that each person has an invisible bucket that they carry around with them each day. When your bucket is full, you are happy and when your bucket is empty, you feel sad. You can fill a person's bucket by doing kind things, being respectful and helpful, and saying nice things to them. When you fill someone's bucket, your bucket is filled

also because it feels good to make someone else feel good. You can also dip from a person's bucket by saying hurtful things, not sharing, or physically hurting them. Our classroom goal is to be bucket fillers. A special reward is given when the class has filled their bucket!

Fire Drills- We will be having fire drills at school on a monthly basis throughout the year. All students will participate and are expected to walk quickly and quietly to our designated exit. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill.

G

H

Health- Please let me know of any circumstances which may affect your child's health. These could include a medication they are on that might make them sleepy, a death in the family, etc. Please also let us know of any allergies, especially food allergies, they may have. We do some cooking in our class and it would be helpful when planning our recipes.

I

Illness- The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially if it has to be made in the morning. However, it's important to keep your child home from school when they are feeling ill. This makes them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Our school policy states that your child stays home if they have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. Your child should stay home until they have been symptom free for 24 hours.

Independence- One of our 4k goals is independence from adult assistance. We work very hard throughout the year teaching your child how to do simple tasks on their own, such as getting outdoor clothing on and off, solving problems with friends, and doing their own work. A great way to reinforce this skill is to have your child attempt to complete simple tasks without assistance at home. Of course, we guide them along, and help when it's necessary. Your child will experience much joy when they independently complete a task, so any help and support you can give at home is great appreciated!

J

Jobs- Each week the children will be able to perform a classroom task, such as line leader, line caboose, calendar helper, etc. A tally is kept so that all children will get a chance to participate in each of the job areas.

K

Kindness- Each child in our classroom is unique and wonderful. In 4K we learn about how we are unique and special. We celebrate our differences and similarities.

L

Leader Day- On your child's leader day, noted on the newsletter calendar, your child is to bring a healthy snack for the class. If your child is in the morning class, please bring enough snacks for 20 children. If your child is in the afternoon class, please bring enough snacks for 15 children.

Literacy- Literacy is an important part of our 4K classroom. Our literacy focus includes story comprehension, answering questions, listening skills, rhyming, and letter/sound recognition. A great program that we will be using in the classroom is called "Literacy Links." Through this program the children will recognize letter sounds through hand motions. I strongly encourage you to read at least 5-10 minutes a night to your child. I will be sending home monthly Reading Logs for you and your child to complete together. At the end of each month, I will be giving a "big buck" to those who turn in their Reading Logs completed. Thank you for your help in this important matter!

M

Math- Math is another important part of our 4K room. Our math program comes from the district curriculum created by Kathy Richardson. Our focus in 4K is number sense: counting objects up to 10, recognizing relationships with number sets, recognizing amounts without counting, measurement: graphing and measuring objects and geometry: including recognizing shape and recognizing shapes in our everyday environment. Our overall goal is to make math relevant in the child's everyday world, to recognize the relationships between math and the world around them.

Music- I will be singing and enjoying music with the children daily. We will have plenty of dance and movement that go along with these songs as well.

N

Name- Please label your child's name on their folders, backpack, and outerwear. Often we have children with the same items or another child mistakenly takes one home. When their name is located on the item, it is much easier to locate the correct owner.

Newsletter- I send a class newsletter every month. Hopefully, this newsletter will offer you a glimpse into what is happening in our classroom. It has important upcoming announcements and shares what we will be learning about that month. Your child's leader will also be listed on this newsletter. Please be sure to watch for this in your email.

O

Outside- When the weather is nice out and we have time in our schedule, we will be going outside to play on the playground.

P

Parent/Child Activities- Every month, a calendar of fun and educational activities will be sent home with your child. This calendar can be kept in your child's folder, so I can see what they have been working on. It's not required that all of these activities be completed. However, it's encouraged that you do some of them with your child because it's a great way to spend time with your child and see what they have learned.

Parent/Child Events- Approximately the first Friday every month 4K does not have school. During this time, the teachers attend a meeting with other 4K teachers and the remainder of the day we like to plan a parent/child activity. These events are a great way to spend time with your child and get valuable resources for working with your child at home, and sometimes they are just for enjoying time together.

Parent Involvement- We love to have parents come into our classroom to help out with our learning centers and spend some time with the children during free choice time. Our district policy is that volunteers must fill out a background check. If you are interested, please talk with me.

PBIS- PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. The Fond du Lac School District uses this program in all schools. The process involves teaching

expected behaviors and then rewarding students for doing the expected behaviors. Students will be able to earn "big bucks" to use for special activities in the classroom or to purchase items from our prize box.

Q

Questions- Since this may be your family's first school experience, you may have a variety of questions. Please know my door is always open and I will do my best to answer them.

R

Report Cards- A report card (referred to as assessment reports) will be sent home at the end of each trimester. We send one home in October, February and June. The assessment cards reflect the progress your child has made towards our 4K benchmarks/goals.

S

Show and Tell- Your child may bring in a show and tell once a month on the date specified on the monthly newsletter. Depending on where show and tell falls, I may have the children bring in something specific that relates to the theme we are talking about that week.

Snack- We will have a snack break each day. Please check the newsletter calendar to see when your child is to bring in a nutritional snack.

T

Themes- Each week we focus on a different theme that reflects the interests of the children. We use our topic of interest to teach all subject areas. This makes learning more meaningful and connected. We will inform you of our theme in the newsletters each month.

Toys- Please do not send toys with your child to school because they can be broken or lost, and the other children will become upset if they don't have a toy from home to play with. Please only allow your child to bring toys on show and tell day.

U

Unique- Each child in our classroom is unique and wonderful. In 4k we learn about how we are unique and special. We celebrate our differences and similarities.

V

W

Wish List- Throughout the year, we sometimes need supplies above and beyond our classroom materials. These items will be posted in our weekly newsletter. Extra items that you think we could use in our classroom are always welcome. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Writing Your Child's Name- Please help your child practice writing his/her name as often as possible. Begin writing your child's name using an uppercase letter only for their first letter. Please use lowercase letters for the rest of their name.

X

X-tra Special and eXciting- 4K is such an eXciting, magical year! Each child is eXtra special to us and we will guide them gently and consistently all year long. Thank you for sharing them!

Y

You!- Please remember that **YOU** are your child's first and most important teacher. No one can influence your child's life in the way that you can! You can help to make your child feel successful this year by discussing your child's school day with them. Ask questions like, "What did you learn today?" or "What was the best part of your day?"

Z

Zzzzs- Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day!