

Drum Rock Early Childhood Center



575 Centerville Road
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 734-3490
Fax: 734-3493

Administer: Mrs. Kathryn Keenan

Hour of Operation:

8:40 am – 2:50 pm

Faculty and Staff

Kathryn B. Keenan
Angela Johnston

Principal
Secretary

Teachers

Nicole Bertrand	Pre-K
Jane Buerman	Pre-K
Pat Burke	Pre-K
Deb Cerel	Pre-K
Chris Giordano	Pre-K
Lisa Murray	Pre-K
Marie Palmer	Kindergarten
Mary Palombo	Pre-K
John Parisi	Pre-K/ Kindergarten
Patty Shanley	Kindergarten
Joanne Tsagaroulis	Pre-K/ Kindergarten
Joanne Weaver	Pre-K

Teacher Assistants

Jennifer Aldrich
Annmarie Alexander
Lori Atturio
Jennie Carreiro
Kelly Crosby
Erin Forrester
Joseph Harris
Tracy Martini
Donna Miley
Nancy Perrault
Carol Seiders
Shelley Thornlimb
Laurie-Ann Wood
Shelley Thornlimb

Support Staff

Tania Alexander	Occupational Therapist
Alice Freeman	Psychologist
Cheryl Gill	Occupational Therapist
Gudrun Harman	Child Outreach Diagnostician
Kerri Hindinger	Speech Therapist
Monique Keohane	Child Outreach Diagnostician
Ann Marchant	Physical Therapist
Julie Martin	Social Worker
Marcia McOsker	Speech Therapist
Eleanor McSally	Reading Consultant
Barbara Ogden	Library
Dawn Paolantonio	Child Outreach Diagnostician
Jason Pariseau	Occupational Therapist
Linda Patrick	Nurse/Teacher
Susan Rose	Speech Therapist
Pamela Ruzzo	Reading Consultant
Carol Sivo	Nurse/Teacher
Marsha Southard	Occupational Therapist
Carol Zimmerman	Guidance Counselor

Mission Statement

The mission of Drum Rock Early Childhood Center is to insure a safe, nurturing environment grounded in the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards, to reinforce children's enthusiasm for learning awareness and tolerance of the diversity in their world, and to provide the opportunity for all students to successfully transition to kindergarten and first grade.

Vision Statement

The Drum Rock Early Childhood Center is a safe, nurturing and diverse learning community which provides all children with a variety of learning opportunities.

Our children are actively engaged in their own education through play, acquiring the skills necessary to be happy, tolerant, contributing members of their school community.

We are committed to building partnerships with our children, their families, our faculty, staff, administrators, and the community to accomplish our mission and goals.

Guiding Beliefs

We Believe ...

Children learn through play

Parents are a child's first teacher and we value their contribution in the learning process

Our center is safe, secure, and a nurturing learning community

Our center believes in fostering innate curiosity in children

Our center meets the needs of students by providing diverse programs

Our center fosters and develops relationships with institutions of higher learning

Our center uses research based instructional practices

Education is the shared responsibility of students, families, school personnel and the community

All members of our center are treated with dignity and respect

Goals

The Drum Rock Early Childhood Center will provide educational access for parents of all students to engage in training groups in Grade Level Expectations (GLE), Rhode Island Early Learning Standards (RIELS), and cooperative practice to promote positive parent/ teacher relationships.

The Drum Rock Early Childhood Center will graduate kindergarten students who are proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics as outlined in the Kindergarten Grade Level Expectations (GLE).

Program Description

The Drum Rock Early Childhood Center offers a variety of educational programs for preschool and kindergarten students.

Our preschool classes include specialized programs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Multiple Disabilities, and behavioral challenges, as well as classes where typically developing community peers work and play alongside young children with developmental delays. We believe that all children have something to give and gain in working together.

The hours of our programs vary from two and a half hour sessions to five and six hour programs. All preschool classes follow Creative Curriculum which aligns with the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards.

All Kindergarten classes follow the Warwick Public Schools' Kindergarten curriculum. Our students will participate in physical education, library, and music classes throughout the year. During the 2009-2010 school year, we will have four kindergarten classrooms. These classrooms include children who were selected through a lottery system and children with developmental delays or disabilities.

Fees

The Warwick Public Schools offers free of cost programming for children who are identified as needing special education through an IEP (Individualized Education Program). There is a fee for children who attend our preschool programs as community peers. There is a reduced sliding scale for those families who qualify. Please contact Mrs. Keenan for an application.

September 2009 – June 2010

Children turning three and a half by September 1st - \$100 per month for a three day program
Children turning four by September 1st - \$125 per month for a five day program.
A two day program fee is \$70 per month.

Forms

Upon enrollment at the Drum Rock Early Childhood Center, each child will receive the following forms to be completed by their parent/ guardian:

- Pupil registration form
- Health History
- Yellow Emergency Card
- Home Language survey
- Proof of residency, social security number, copy of birth certificate, and documentation of a current physical.

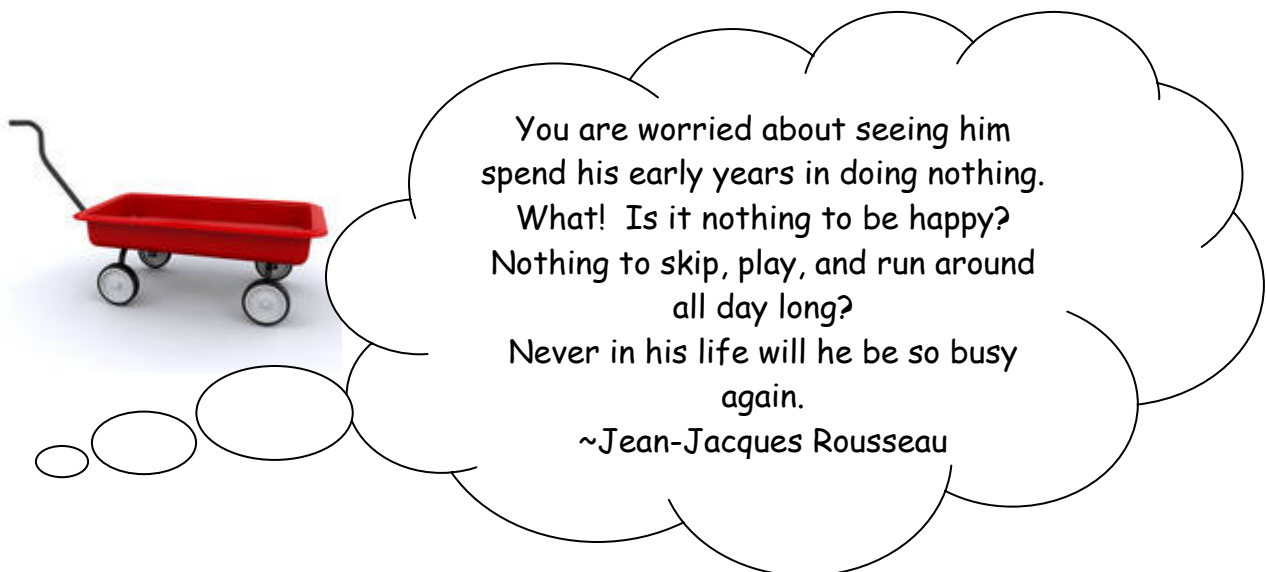
The forms **MUST** be returned to the school **BEFORE** your child's first day of school. Appropriate signatures from physicians **MUST** be secured in order for the medical forms to be valid. Medical forms are only valid for the period of one calendar year.

Student Progress Reporting

Preschool student progress will be evaluated twice a year. Kindergarten students will be evaluated three times a year, following the Warwick Public Schools criteria for grading.

Conferences

Conferences can be requested by you or your child's teacher at any time. For parents with children who have IEPs, requests for IEP reviews should be made in writing and given to your child's teacher.



Family Involvement

Family Involvement is an essential and key part of the Drum Rock Early Childhood Center's program. Since one of our guiding beliefs is that "parents are a child's first teacher and we value their contribution in the learning process," we consistently want to maintain a relationship between families and staff. We welcome families to become involved in their child's pre-school and Kindergarten experience as much as possible. There are many ways to become involved! Parents can become involved by becoming field trip chaperones, room parents, or by joining the School Improvement Team. As parents you all have busy schedules, so if your time is limited, speak to your child's teacher to see how you can become involved. Parents are also encouraged to talk to your child's teacher about the possibility of sharing your talents such as gardening, music, or crafts with the children.

Open House

There is an Open House at the beginning of the school year. A notice will be sent home as to the date and time. The Open House provides parents and guardians with an opportunity to see our center, to meet teachers, and to learn more about the wonderful things your child will be learning. It is not meant for individual parent/ teacher conferences.

Committees

Each year a new Parent Group will be formed. This group will help plan special events and fundraising, as well as help teachers with classroom activities. Parents will also be invited to participate on the School Improvement Team. This Team will be responsible evaluating and planning education initiatives for the Center. Specific details will follow in a separate correspondence.

I tried to teach my child with books;

He gave me only puzzled looks;

I tried to teach my child with words;

They passed him by, oft unheard.

Despairingly I turned aside;

"How shall I teach this child!" I cried,

Into my hand he put the key;

"Come," he said, "play with me."



Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

All children who come to our center by bus are greeted by the side door of the All Purpose Room by our teaching assistants. The children remain in the All Purpose Room until their classroom teachers pick them up at the start of school day.

Children who are driven to the center are also greeted by a teacher or a teaching assistant at the front door of the All Purpose Room. Parents are asked to follow the drop-off and pick-up traffic patterns at the front of the center by **staying in the car line and waiting until they are within two to three unloading cars before they help their children disembark. Parents are also requested to have their child exit from the passenger side of the car only and to walk them to the adult greeters.** In order to keep the traffic flow moving, we ask that parents do not use this time to conference with teachers.

Late arrivals should enter through the front door of the center. Parents will be asked to sign their child in at the front desk. Your child will then be escorted to class by a staff member.

Our dismissal procedures are the same as our arrival patterns. Bus children are dismissed from the side door and children being picked up by parents exit through the front doors of the All Purpose Room.

Children being dismissed early for appointments or other reasons must be signed out at the front desk. Parents are asked to inform the classroom teacher in writing of the early dismissal. If the dismissal is unexpected, parents are asked to call the center as early as possible before dismissal.

If the adult picking up the child is not known to our staff, he or she must show photo identification (driver's license, etc.) to prove his or her identity before the child may be dismissed into his or her care.

If someone other than a parent is picking up the child, that person's name and phone number must be listed on the child's yellow Emergency Care Card. **A child may be dismissed only to those adults listed on this card.**

Safety Procedures

Random fire drills, lockdowns, and evacuations are performed at the center according to state laws. Prior to the first of the drills, the children are given an opportunity to practice the drill with their teachers.

When visiting the center for conferences or meetings, parents will be asked to sign in at the front desk, and to attach a Visitor's Badge to their clothing. A staff member will then escort parents to their conference/meeting room.

Health Regulations and Absences

Children who show signs of illness such as a sore throat, earache, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or coughs should be kept at home. A child must be “fever free”, without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school. Children who are taking medication for strep throat, scarlet fever, conjunctivitis, or other communicable diseases must remain at home for at least twenty-four hours after medication was started. If a child becomes ill during program hours, parents will be contacted. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that the center has current telephone numbers, including home, cell, and work numbers on file in case of illness or emergency.

Parents are asked to notify our office if their child will be absent for any reason. Any illness and communicable diseases such as strep throat, chicken pox, and scarlet fever must be reported immediately. When a communicable disease is identified in a classroom, parents will receive notification so that they may watch for symptoms. A child may return when he/she is free of the disease.

Please make known allergies or chronic health problems to the school nurse and classroom teacher. Please also make the school nurse aware of any medications or prescriptions your child is taking. We appreciate your help in keeping us informed in regard to your child’s health so that we can maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for all of our students.

No prescription medications, or over the counter non-prescription medication, will be given unless we have signed and dated permission from a licensed physician. Please contact our school nurse if you have specific questions about these procedures.

School Closings and Inclement Weather

Since the Drum Rock Early Childhood Center is part of the Warwick Public Schools, when the school department is closed, so are we. Please tune into a local radio or television station to follow school closings during periods of inclement weather. You may also receive a phone call from the Superintendent’s office or from Mrs. Keenan advising that the schools are closed or that there is a delay.

Clothing

Pre-school and kindergarten days are filled with many hands-on activities. While the children are learning and exploring with their hands and bodies, the activities can sometimes become quite messy. For this reason, we ask that your children wear clothes to school in which they can explore, play, and even get dirty. Also, for toileting purposes please make sure their clothes are easy to get into and out of. We ask that you provide an extra set of clothes, seasonably appropriate, in case any changes need to be made during the school day. Please label your child's clothes with his or her name in permanent marker. Finally, we go outside frequently, so please make sure that your child is dressed for the weather. Winter clothing should include hats, mittens, boots and snow pants, if possible. During the warm-weather months, closed-toe shoes are the safest footwear for our outside play areas.

Snack and Food Items

As part of Warwick Schools, DRECC is committed to following Rhode Island Nutritional Guidelines, the district Health and Wellness Policy and the State's peanut/tree nut allergy law. In an effort to adhere to these requirements, all elementary schools have established uniform guidelines regarding the celebration of birthdays and holidays. To be in accordance with the above laws, homemade and store bought cakes, cupcakes, candies, and/or sweet treats will no longer be allowed in our classroom for individual celebrations and special events. We will attempt to make the events special in other ways that do not include peanut or nut products, high fat, or high sugar content foods. Following are some suggestions for in-school healthy party snacks: fruit, veggies, crackers and cheese, yogurt, cheese sticks, pretzels, packaged fruit-slices, pears, peaches, mandarin oranges, or raisins/craisins. Should snacks be brought in that do not meet the above criteria, they will **NOT** be handed out to the children. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or our school nurse.

Birthday Invitations

In keeping up with our mission statement, to promote a healthy mind and supporting the children's emotional growth, birthday invitations will **ONLY** be permitted as long as one (1) unlabeled invitation is provided for **EACH** child. The teachers will distribute them at the end of the day in your child's bag or backpack. Should invitations be received that do not comply with the above, they will **NOT** be distributed, and will be sent back home.

To: Drum Rock Early Childhood Center Families

From: Kathryn Keenan , Administrator
Linda Patrick , School Nurse/Teacher

The Warwick Public Schools are committed to following the Rhode Island Nutritional Guidelines, the district Health and Wellness Policy and the State's peanut/tree nut allergy law. In an effort to adhere to these requirements, all elementary schools have established uniform guidelines regarding the celebrations of birthdays and holidays. To be in compliance with the above laws, homemade and store-bought cakes, cupcakes, candies and /or finger foods will no longer be allowed in our classrooms for individual celebrations and special events. We will attempt to make the events special in other ways that do not include peanut or nut products, high fat or high sugar content foods.

Several suggestions for healthy party snacks:

Fruit	Pretzels
Veggies	Packaged fruit-diced
Crackers & cheese	Pears, peaches
Yogurt	Mandarin oranges
Cheese sticks	Raisins/Craisins

Several suggestions for non-food parties:

- Board games
- Crafts
- Treasure Hunts
- Birthday Pencils
- Donating a book to the classroom library

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 734-3490.

Helpful Web Sites

Warwick Public Schools' home page:

<http://www.warwickschools.org/>

Drum Rock Early Childhood Center's home page:

<http://www.warwickschools.org/drumrock/>

Rhode Island Department of Education's home page:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/>

Early Learning Standards Information, from the RI Department of Education:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/els/doc.asp>

Grade Span Expectations Information, from the RI Department of Education:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/gle.aspx>

Creative Curriculum Information:

<http://www.creativecurriculum.net/research.cfm>

