

**WOODFORD COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
INTENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
EUREKA EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
2024-2025
ENROLLMENT LETTER**

From your child's teacher Hello Families! When I began my journey in education almost 16 years ago, I had no idea my path would lead me to where I am today! My background is diverse with experience teaching public school music and band, family-style early childhood music classes with children as young as 6 weeks old, teaching in a special education homebound tutoring setting, and working in special education with children aged 3 through 9. I finished my Master's Degree in Special Education with an emphasis in early childhood in 2023. I am a lifelong learner who is always searching for new and innovative ways to enrich the lives of my students' families. My family of five lives in Mackinaw. I believe it is important to find a good balance in my life, so when I have free time, I enjoy watching my children play travel league and school sports, tent camping, Scouting, church activities, and playing a variety of instruments.

As part of my passion for working with exceptional children, I recognize that no two children are exactly alike. There are nuances, strengths, and needs to be discovered and honored for each child. In our classroom this year, we will strive to create highly individualized content while we work on effective communication, fine and gross motor skills, emotional and sensory regulation, integrated academic content with an emphasis on literature, and establishing predictable routines all while showing the children that school is a safe and enjoyable place to be.

In particular, my last 8 years in education have taught me the power of play-based learning, how to be attentive to the rise and fall of the energy in the classroom, and how to strike a balance between being both gentle and firm. You will see evidence of these things in our classroom. The things I am looking forward to the most about the upcoming year are the moments when we get to celebrate student growth. It is easy to get tunnel vision, only seeing areas where the children need to improve, so I make it a top priority to pause and recognize all successes, great and small! Most importantly, I recognize that the task of educating and caring for these young children is a team effort with families playing a crucial role.

From the program administrator Thank you for your commitment to our program. This program is like no other that I'm aware of in Central Illinois. The staff teaming, methodology, and low student to staff ratio has allowed us to reach every child in so many different ways. Our goal is and will continue to be to reach every child where they are at developmentally and build trust with our families, conveying that we love all of our students. Please take advantage of the Family Connection Days. These are designed to improve your understanding of your child's progress, share strategies that are successful at school, and hold events that are safe for every child to enjoy and attend, regardless of the severity of their disability.

Important dates and key information are on the next page

First day of class Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Class times 8:00-10:30 AM and 12:00-2:30 PM

Paperwork All students must register for school. A registration link will be emailed to you in late May or early June. This will come from Ameer Meinhold at the WCSEA office.

New students only You will bring a courthouse copy of your child's birth certificate, recent physical with immunization record, and income verification to the required back to school event appointment. *Returning students do not need to provide these again.*

Bus Bus transportation is handled by your school district. You will receive a call sometime in July or early August to schedule your child's bussing.

Location of Classroom Our classroom is located in the Early Childhood Center (District Administrative office) at 109 West Cruger Eureka, IL 61537

Backpacks Children need to bring their backpack to school every day. I will place papers and notes home in the bag so please check it daily.

School Calendar We will follow the Eureka School District for most days but we do vary somewhat. Our program has built in one day monthly for school staff to connect with parents to talk about student progress. Students do not attend school on these Family Connections days. Twice a year, our group will meet at an area facility (park, sensory gym) on a Family Connection Day to have some fun!

Orientation/Supply drop off day Monday, August 12, 2024

New students follow the schedule below:

Myles and family 8:15-8:45

Silas and family 9:15-9:45

Ronan and family 10:15-10:45

Returning students may come to the classroom anytime between 1-2:30pm

Please bring school supplies to your orientation/visit day appointment. You will have time to see the classroom and meet staff. Our team will be very excited to see everyone!

Sincerely,
Victoria Awbrey
vawbrey@wcsea.us