

**Oglesby Elementary
School District #125**

Early Childhood Program



**2011 - 2012
Lincoln School
883-9137**

OGLESBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Lincoln School
755 Bennett Avenue
Oglesby, Illinois 61348
883-9137

District #125

Mr. Michael Pillion, Superintendent

Mrs. Cindy Pozzi, Principal

2011-2012

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Oglesby Public Schools' Early Childhood Education Program is designed to help develop positive self-concept, enhance creativity, and enrich each child's life socially, intellectually, and emotionally. There is an atmosphere of acceptance in which the individual needs of each child are considered and in which the child can flourish and grow under the guidance of qualified teachers.

This program is based on the developmental approach to early childhood education that places emphasis on learning skills that are geared to each child's stage of readiness or development. Our approach to learning recognizes the tremendous capacity and desire of the young child to discover and explore the environment of their immediate world enabling him or her to convert his natural curiosity into the learning process.

District #125 Mission Statement

All children can learn. It is the mission of Oglesby Elementary Schools to present opportunities for children to grow and develop as emerging learners within a complex society. We will provide a learning environment that is conducive for learning and allows for personal development to take place. District personnel will strive to provide the children with those ingredients needed to build a solid foundation as each child evolves into a lifelong learner.

Early Childhood Program Mission Statement

It is the mission of this program to provide quality, developmentally appropriate, early childhood education to children ages three through five, which are not eligible for kindergarten. This program examines the needs of the children, families, school districts, and communities we serve. The curriculum addresses the identified needs. Understanding the parent is the child's first and most important teacher, every effort is made to help the family educate the child. This program has an important role in shaping the social, emotional, and intellectual development of the young child. The intent of this program is to provide enriching, enjoyable, and meaningful activities that nurture young children.

Parent Training Program – Families First Mission Statement

It is the mission of the parent training program to provide guidance and support to families as they care for infants and/or young children. Aware of the issues families face every day, the parent training component of the early childhood program is committed to encourage parents in the nurturing of their small children. Education programs and other supports will be provided to assist parents in promoting a quality relationship during the child's early years.

Criteria for Selection for Early Childhood Program (At-Risk Program)

For a child to be eligible for enrollment in Oglesby's state-funded early childhood program the following are the primary criteria considered when determining student selection. Children are screened by an early childhood screening team from August to May. A child must be screened before entering the program.

- 1) A child who is between 1 and 6 months below in one or more of these developmental areas:
 - cognitive
 - speech/language
 - fine motor
 - gross motor
 - socialization skills

- 2) Other Factors considered when determining a child's eligibility include:
 - hearing and/or vision problems
 - health problems
 - low income
 - single parent family unit
 - primary language at home is not English
 - age of parent is under 17 or over 35 at the time of child's birth
 - low birth weight, premature, or other prenatal/postnatal health problems
 - mobility of the family
 - education level of the parents
 - involvement with other social agencies (Public Aid, DCFS, Against Domestic Violence, etc.)
 - four or more children in a family unit
 - previous enrollment in Head Start, At-Risk, or similar program

If upon further testing, it is deemed necessary and appropriate, the child may be considered for services provided by the Developmental Preschool.

*** CHILDREN MUST BE 3 YEARS OLD BY SEPTEMBER 1, IN ORDER TO BE ENROLLED IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AT-RISK.

*** **In addition to all students who qualify under the above criteria, Oglesby Early Childhood Program will accept all 3 and 4 year old year-old children from communities served under this program as long as they have been screened and space is available.**

ENTRANCE AGES

This program is open to children ages three and four. A child must be age three by September 1 (exception is Developmental Preschool Children). Parents are **required** to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate.

A child reaching age 3 during the school term, who has been screened by the early childhood screening team, may be deemed eligible for this early childhood program if space is available and all the other requirements have been met.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Preschool students who will be entering Oglesby Public School for the first time will be required to have a physical examination and immunizations in accordance with the requirements for the State of Illinois. Lead screening is required for preschool students. Please have your doctor fill in the lead section of the physical with the date that the lead test was drawn. The TB portion of the physical also needs to be completed. If your child's doctor does not recommend a TB skin test, please have him/her mark the TB portion of physical exempt.

A dental examination is highly recommended so we have a baseline assessment of your child's oral health.

These requirements need to be met prior to the start of school. Please hand in your physical and completed immunizations at registration in August. Your child will be excluded from school if records are incomplete.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Students are to have a birth certificate that is certified by the county to be turned in to the school. We are unable to accept copies of these certificates without the certification of the county.

EMERGENCY CARE FORM

You will receive an emergency care form when you register your child. Please complete this form and return it to the child's teacher as soon as possible.

CURRICULUM

The overall curriculum of the Oglesby Public Schools' Early Childhood Education Program is designed to meet the individual growth and developmental needs of the young child. Activities are provided in the areas of art, music, children's literature, concept development, large and small motor skills, dramatic play, listening skills, science, and many others.

ART

Various art activities, such as clay, finger painting, water colors, crayons, and easel painting assist the child in experimentation, creativity, and development of motor skills. In addition, these activities help a child express emotions and feelings. Remember, the process is often more important than the product.

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Themes are planned to meet the needs of the children. Many planned activities are derived from these themes. Examples of such themes are "colors", "shapes", "food groups", and "animals". These themes attempt to expand the child's cognitive skills, language development, and curiosity.

DRAMATIC PLAY

This is a very important part of the program as it gives each child the opportunity to actually portray the roles around him or her. These play opportunities help foster within the child a greater understanding of the way people relate to each other and their place in the world.

MUSIC

Ample time is allowed for singing, marching, and experimentation with instruments and rhythms. Often listening to music serves as a way to relax the child and provide smooth transitions to other activities.

LITERATURE

Books are available each day. In addition, special time is set aside for stories, puppets, flannel board stories, films, and story records. All of these experiences contribute to the child's language development and understanding of the world.

SPEECH/LANGUAGE

Times is set aside each day for language development such as proper use of pronouns, prepositions, and complete sentence usage. Periodically a Speech/Language Pathologist may spend time with the class in small group activities that stress a particular language skill or concept.

LARGE AND SMALL MUSCLE ACTIVITIES

Physical exercise and the development of motor skills are experienced daily. Various equipment is used such as balls, climbing equipment, and balance beam for large muscles. Small motor skills are developed through various manipulative materials including puzzles, blocks, beads, and similar items.

SOCIALIZATION

All activities strive toward helping the child learn how to get along with others. Through all the activities of the program, an attempt is made to create and develop in each child a feeling of belonging, respect, friendliness, consideration for others, self-confidence, and a positive self image.

ABSENCES

Please let us know ahead of time or call the school (883-9137) if your child will be absent. Please send a written note upon return.

PERMISSION SLIPS

Permission slips are completed at registration as part of the permission page. A completed slip with your signature is required before your child may participate in field trip activities.

CLOTHING

Send an extra set of clothes to keep in your child's bookbag or backpack. Please label and place in plastic bag. Be sure your child wears clothing that is comfortable for play. Dress for the weather.

FOOD AND PLAYTHINGS FROM HOME

Children are discouraged from bringing money, toys, gum, or candy to school.

Parents wishing to bring special treats for birthdays may make arrangements with the teacher and must bring store bought or pre-packaged items for students. This ensures careful monitoring for students with allergies or medical conditions that require the school to know the listing of ingredients. Please keep

these guidelines in mind when planning parties or treats for the students. If homemade items are sent to school, they will not be passed out to the students. The only way we can be sure our students are not placed at risk is to monitor treats the students receive.

TOY AND BOOK LENDING

Several times during the year each child will bring a toy lending bag with several toys and books to use and share with younger family members. This should be returned within 3 days. A list of all materials and supplies will be enclosed in the bag so that you can be sure all learning materials are returned.

When visiting the classroom, parents or guardians may checkout one toy or game to use at home with the children. This toy or game may be checked out for one week. We also have children's books that may be checked out for one week.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Each parent or guardian is asked to act as an in-classroom volunteer. You will receive a schedule with your appointed dates. If these dates are not convenient due to work schedule or other commitments, parents/guardians are encouraged to visit the preschool class any time. You will be asked to help with a holiday party. Several parent meetings will be held during the year. Your suggestions and attendance are imperative to the success of the program.

PARENT RESOURCE LIBRARY

Books, pamphlets, and video tapes on positive parenting, nutrition, and related subjects may be checked out for a period of one week.

CALENDAR

Both morning and afternoon sessions of the Early Childhood Education Program run Monday through Friday. We will follow the Oglesby Public School calendar. You will be notified of holiday recesses, etc., in the newsletter. The hours of the program are: Morning sessions 8:30 -11:30 and the afternoon session will run from 12:00 -3:00.

NEWSLETTER

A newsletter will be sent home periodically with your child. This will include small and large muscle activities, math activities, recipes, language, art, and fingerplays or poems to use with your child at home to reinforce the activities that were stressed in class.

DEPARTURE

The majority of the children arrive and depart on the bus. Because we are concerned for the safety and protection of the children, no child will be released to any person other than parent or designated person identified on the pickup form.

Reminders for Preschool Drop-offs and Pick-ups

To ensure the safety and well-being of your preschooler, please keep the following in mind when picking up or dropping off your preschooler:

- ❖ We have two supervisors stationed at the doors who need your help to make things run smoothly.
- ❖ Preschool begins promptly at 8:30 for A.M. and 12:00 for P.M.; have your child dropped off no later than those times. It helps to have the children 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the school day.

- ❖ Please always drive up to the ramp and stay in your car as one of the supervisors will come to your car.
- ❖ Please do not let your preschooler out at corner or away from ramp.
- ❖ Allow for eastbound traffic to make it through by keeping the intersection free of waiting cars.
- ❖ Please stay in line and do not park in bus parking areas. Dismissal will go much quicker if we work together.

Please keep in mind that these concerns are for your child's safety and your cooperation ensures our chances of providing the best and safest environment we can for all of our preschoolers. Thank you for your efforts in these matters.

SNACK TIME

A nutritious snack is served each day. Children are encouraged to taste each food. No child will be forced to eat any food or finish all food. Simple table manners will be practiced. Snack time used for socialization between the children and the teacher.

HOME VISITS

Home visits will be made periodically throughout the school year. A letter will be sent with a specific date and time. At these times, the progress your child has made and any areas in which your child needs special help will be discussed. Any questions or comments that you might have are always welcome.

Philosophy Behind Home Visit Component

The philosophy of the Oglesby Public School's Early Childhood Education Home Visit component is designed to enrich each child's life through cooperation and communication between the home and school. The Home Visit component of this program stresses the fact that **parents are the first and best teachers** of the child. The Home Visit is designed to assist the parents as they strive to help their child discover and explore the environment of their immediate world and convert natural curiosity into the learning process.

Purpose of Home Visit Component

The Home Visit permits the parents, teachers, and child to form a bond of trust, friendship, and security. The teaching staff desires to assist the parents in a variety of ways by providing information about the community resources, continuing adult education, health, nutrition, and simple learning activities for the child.

The Home Visit also provides support for the parents when dealing with concerns related to the child and/or family. The Home Visit places emphasis on the parent's involvement.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, you may call the school or come in and talk to the teacher.

Pediculosis (Policy)

This policy has been developed to act as the District guideline for dealing with the incidence of pediculosis in the school environment. It is intended to provide parameters, which insure that all students are carefully watched and dealt with appropriately when there are occurrences of pediculosis at school.

Pediculosis is defined as head lice that live on the human head, and lay eggs, defined as nits on the hair shaft.

Investigate all reported or suspected cases of head lice.

- A. All students in each grade will be checked for head lice by trained examiners at these times:
 - 1. First full week of each school year
 - 2. After winter holiday vacation
 - 3. After spring vacation

- B. The procedures for head lice checks are as follows:
 - 1. A current class list is used to record the results for each student.
 - 2. Disposable plastic gloves are worn and changed as needed, and/or a tool such as applicator sticks or pedicu-stix are used and discarded by trained examiners following each head check.
 - 3. Each student's hair will be examined and the results noted as follows:
 - a. Head lice (insects) found
 - b. Head lice nits (eggs) found
 - c. No nits (eggs) or lice (insects) found
 - 4. Absent students will be examined upon return to the classroom.
 - 5. Parent(s) of a student found with head lice or nits will be notified immediately. The student is then removed from contact with other students and sent home for treatment. When unable to contact the parent(s) by phone, the student will be sent home at the end of the day. All students with head lice or nits will be sent home with a letter regarding treatment of the student and the home environment and information about head lice. For re-admission to school the following day, parent(s) must accompany student to the nurses office to be checked and show proof of appropriate treatment. All nits must also be removed from the hair prior to the student's readmission to school.
 - 6. If it is determined that this treatment has not been completed, the student will then be removed from contact with other students until the necessary treatment has been completed (i.e., use of pediculicide and removal of nits).
 - 7. A log will be prepared at the beginning of each school year. It will contain the dates of all head lice checks, the results and parent contacts.
 - 8. The heads of all students in the same classroom as the case should be inspected.
 - 9. All siblings enrolled in the district should be identified and checked.

- C. Parents and staff will be notified about head lice policies and procedures at the beginning of each school year.

****** With these guidelines in place, the school will only notify the parents/guardians of the students identified to have live lice or nits.**

Any Questions Just Call!!

Community Resources

The school has and maintains a harmonious working relationship with many community agencies, i.e.

Against Domestic Violence
(for abused adults and their children)
P.O. Box 593
Streator, IL 61364
Phone: 673-1555

Dept. of Children and Family Services
500 State St.
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone: 433-4371
Reporting abuse and neglect 24 hr.
Toll free: 800-252-2873

Head Start Program (LaSalle - Mendota)
Tri County Opportunities Council
Toll free: 800-303-5434

Hygienic Institute for LaSalle-Peru-Oglesby
Health Department
141 Fifth St.
LaSalle, IL 61301
Phone: 223-0196

Illinois Valley Community College, ABE, GED, ESL
I-READ (Local Literacy Program & Early Childhood Education Center)
Route #1
Oglesby, IL 61348
Phone: 224-2720

Illinois Valley Community Hospital & Home Health Services
925 West St.
Peru, IL 61354
Phone: 223-3300
Ambulance dispatch: 223-4444

Illinois Valley Food Pantry
500 Second Street
LaSalle, IL 61301
Phone: 224-3658

LaSalle County Cooperative Extension
125 Swanson St., Box 489
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone: 433-0707

LaSalle County Dept. of Public Aid
700 Centennial Drive
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone: 433-1572

LaSalle County Special Education Office
1009 Boyce Memorial Drive
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone: 433-6433

Oglesby Ambulance Service
210 Woodland Ave.
Oglesby, IL 61348
Emergency: 911
Business: 883-3663

Oglesby Fire Dept.
Phone: 883-8401

Oglesby Police Dept.
Phone: 883-8404

Unincorporated areas call:

LaSalle County Sheriff
707 Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone: 433-2161

Village of Tonica Ambulance
Phone: 442-3100

Village of Tonica Police Department
Phone: 442-3200

Village of Tonica Fire Department
Phone: 442-3100

Village of North Utica Ambulance
Phone: 223-4440

Village of North Utica Police Dept.
Phone: 667-4261 or 443-2161

Village of North Utica Fire Dept.
Phone: 667-4221

Lostant Ambulance Service
Phone: 368-3200

Lostant Fire Department
Phone: 368-3200

Lostant Police Department
Phone: 368-3461 or 224-1150 or 433-2161

Deer Park Community Consolidated School District No. 82
Phone 434-6930

I.V.C.C.. Early Childhood Education Center
Illinois Valley Community College
Phone 224-2720 Extension #302

School Numbers

Oglesby Lincoln Early Childhood Office 883-9137

Lincoln School Office 883-8932

Tonica Grade School 442-3420

Lostant Grade School 368-2292

Waltham South Grade School 667-4790

Deer Park School 434-6930

