



School Year 2022-23

Dear Families,

Welcome to Jefferson Early Childhood Center! My name is Cathy Maurer, and I have taught in CUSD200 for 19 years. I am excited to have your child begin his/her school career in District 200 at Jefferson in my classroom. I also want to share some information to help make the first couple of days at school a smooth and fun transition for you and your child.

Student attendance is Tuesday-Friday each week, Monday is a non-attendance day for students. The hours of attendance for our morning session are from **9:15-11:45 AM** and the afternoon session meets from **1:00-3:30 PM**. The first day of school is Thursday, August 18th.

Our day will be divided into structured and unstructured activities. Adult directed activities such as art, table toys, and one-on-one time with various teachers or therapists. We will have individual as well as small group activities every day. My morning session this year will be an instructional classroom and the afternoon session will be a blended classroom. There will be differences between the AM and PM daily schedule, group lessons, and activities that are based on the needs of each group.

At the start of the day, every child will locate their locker and hang up their backpack and coat. We will be working with every child to foster independence as they learn the daily routine and manage their materials. We will provide a varying level of support based on the needs of each individual child. Various support staff will work throughout the school day to monitor and support student behavior, facilitate play, assess student progress, and work toward improvements in the areas of speech, social, fine motor, gross motor, and academic skills as children work and play. After center time, we will clean up all of the interest areas and gather in our chairs at the front of the classroom to sing a final song and say good-bye for the day.

Choice Time/Center Time includes interest areas such as toys and games, dramatic play, easel, blocks, art/writing center, and feeling table. This is a time when the children lead the play and the team members join in to facilitate and expand play opportunities. [Play](#) is a child's context for learning and is a core part of the curriculum.

Large Group/Circle Time is heavily language-based and such skills as attending, following directions, and academic concepts are worked on. At the beginning of the school year, circle time will be short and will increase as the children's understanding and attention increases throughout the year. Theme related stories and music activities are also part of circle time as well.

Table Time/Small Group Time is for teacher directed activities that may include art, puzzles, fine motor activities, playdoh and one-on-one time with the teacher, therapists, and classroom assistants.

Gross Motor Time consists of our time in the gym, on the playground, or in the courtyard. This is a time when social skills really develop during the active play they are enjoying together. For safety reasons, please have your child wear or bring sneakers to school each day. Boots, sandals, crocs, and flip-flops are very slippery and they do not grip well on the climbing equipment. If you prefer, your child may leave a pair of gym shoes here for the year. Please label them with their name.

Snack Time Each day your child needs to bring a small snack and drink from home. Please send in a favorite healthy snack and drink. A reminder that we are a **peanut/nut free** school so no items containing nuts for snack please. Please make sure your child's snack is in a labeled bag each day.

Jefferson Early Childhood Center uses the Creative Curriculum as an outline for our day. The Creative Curriculum classroom functions as a community, a place where people feel safe, help one another, and consider themselves to be part of a group. Developmentally appropriate lesson plans and activities will be developed and activities and lessons will also incorporate student IEP (Individualized Educational Plan) goals. The team will develop units of study to guide our learning and play activities each month. For every unit, I will send a classroom newsletter home via email. I will also upload a copy of the classroom newsletter to my Google Classroom. Reading through the newsletters provides you with a great opportunity to talk with your child about upcoming school events and to ask them about what they did in the classroom each day. This is a great way to ask your child where they played, what they played with, and who they saw in class each day.

*****Your child will need a backpack with a zipper and a wide opening. Please make sure the bag is large enough for your child to put in papers and other items and zip the bag closed. They will also need a complete change of appropriate clothes to the season (including socks and underwear)*****

I hope that this letter has answered a few of your questions before your child's first day of school. Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions or concerns. The team and I are looking forward to getting to know you and your child this school year.

Cathy Maurer, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, MED SPE, ESL
catherine.maurer@cusd200.org

Link to my [classroom page](#) on the district website

Classroom Team:

Rachael Turner, MA CCC-SLP/L, Speech Language Pathologist
rachael.turner@cusd200.org

Maggie Ruble, Occupational Therapist
maggie.ruble@cusd200.org

Amelia Aguilar, Physical Therapist
amelia.aguilar@cusd200.org

Rachel Anderson, School Social Worker
rachel.anderson@cusd200.org

Jefferson Early Childhood Center

130 N Hazelton Ave.
Wheaton, IL 60189

Jefferson's main number is 630-682-2474. Our secretaries are Nicole Krebs and Carrie Sangorska.