



Welcome to Jefferson Early Childhood Center!! My name is Stephanie Zentner and I will be your child's teacher this upcoming school year. I went to Illinois State University for my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with an English as a Second Language endorsement. I also have my master's degree from Northern Illinois University in Special Education. This is my ninth year teaching at Jefferson Early Childhood Center. Some of my favorite things to do are to travel, watch sports, go shopping, and spend time with my family and friends.

I am super excited to start a new school year! The classroom is made up of many professionals that are here to support and teach your child. There is a speech language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, and a social worker who will be integrating services within the classroom. Our classroom will also consist of a classroom assistant, to help support students with following directions, implement a daily schedule and routine, and make sure the classroom runs smoothly.

Students will attend school Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays with Mondays being a non-attendance day. The hours of attendance for our morning session are from 9:15-11:45 AM and afternoon session meets from 1:00-3:30 PM.

Throughout the school day there are going to be structured times as well as unstructured ones. This provides the students with plenty of opportunities to develop social emotional skills, academic skills, and independent functioning skills. During structured and independent play time, students will be given a choice as to which centers they would like to engage and actively participate in. Centers include dramatic play, blocks, art, writing, science, feeling table, and reading. Students need to be explicitly taught academic skills (numeracy and literacy), play skills, turn taking, as well as sharing. There will also be 20 minutes a day of gross motor time taking place either inside or outside.

Communication is essential. I am always available by email or a phone call. Weekly classroom newsletters will be sent home every Friday as well as a building newsletter biweekly. The classroom and Jefferson newsletters are also available on our website. Please do not hesitate to email or call with questions or concerns. The classroom team and I are looking forward to getting to know you and your child! I can't wait for a great year! Together we will build a connection that will keep them engaged in our classroom community.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Zentner, M.Ed.  
Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

