

Welcome to Mrs. Tracy's EC Classroom Jefferson Early Childhood Center



Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year and Jefferson Early Childhood Center.

I'm Tracy Buchholz and I am thrilled to be your child's teacher this year. I have been at Jefferson for 8 years, I subbed for the first 3 years and then I have taught our Jefferson satellite classroom at Longfellow for 3 years and this will be my 3rd year at the new Jefferson Building! I am looking forward to an exciting year working with your child and your family. I would like to encourage you to take an active role in your child's education. Our philosophy embraces family involvement through the school, PTA, and family enrichment activities. We conclude through our experience, that the greatest benefits are derived when parents and teachers work as partners to guide the children in their growth, development, and education.

This year the student schedule is as follows; **Mondays** (Non-attendance Day) Students will attend, **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday** for our four day per week program. The hours of attendance for our morning session are from 9:15-11:45 AM and PM session meets from 1:00-3:30 PM.

Our **Meet the Teacher and Supply Drop off** event will be held on Wednesday, August 17th.

AM students come at 9:30 am and PM students come at 10:15 am

Our day will be divided into structured and non-structured activities throughout the day. Adult directed activities such as art, table toys, and one-on-one time with various teachers or therapists. We will have large group and small group activities every day.

At Jefferson Early Childhood Center, we follow the Creative Curriculum, which emphasizes areas of interest. Our interest areas include, but are not limited to dramatic play, blocks/cars, art/craft, sensory table, discovery area, quiet reading area, music and movement, and technology (iPad, SMART Board, and general computer skills). Language development, social skills, play skills, gross/fine motor, and independence skills are also embedded throughout our entire program. Early learning and development are multidimensional. Each child is unique and individual needs will be met on a personal basis and according to their written Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This year our Speech Pathologist will be Julie Espinosa, our Occupational Therapist will be Erin Hanlon.

Parent-teacher communication is very important and can be done through email, notebooks, or phone calls. I value your thoughts and concerns and together we will work to help your child reach their goals. Every week a class newsletter will be sent home highlighting the weeks' events, important school news and dates to remember, as well as a daily recall sheet. To help the district Go Green, all families are encouraged to have the newsletter sent home via email. If you do not have access to a computer or email, we will send home a hard copy of the newsletter. Reading through these papers each week 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 played with each day.

I am looking forward to a great year working with you and your child.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at P: 630.682-2474 or via email at tracy.buchholz@cusd200.org

Tracy Buchholz

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher and EL Teacher
Jefferson Early Childhood Center