



LVCA NEWS

Newsletter 17
Winter Edition



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KEEP FOR REFERENCE

What to Look for in Selecting a Preschool

Contribute by Kerry Rubin, Sleepy Hollow Preschool

For many families with young children, the end of the year can mean the start of a hectic time: the search for the right preschool. As I learned the hard way, it is best to begin your search early as classes begin filling up in January and February when most preschools begin accepting applications and holding open houses.

So, once you start your search, how do you differentiate between the many preschools in this area and find the best one for you and your child? We at Sleepy Hollow Preschool agree with the National Association for the Education of Young Children ("NAEYC") that looking for a school with the following 10 signs is a good place to start:

1. Children spend most of their time playing and working with materials or other children. They do not wander aimlessly, and they are not expected to sit quietly for long periods of time.
2. Children have access to various activities throughout the day. Look for assorted building blocks and other construction materials, props for pretend play, picture books, paints, and other art materials, and table toys such as matching games, pegboards, and puzzles. Children should not all be doing the same thing at the same time.
3. Teachers work with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend all their time with the whole group.
4. The classroom is decorated with children's original artwork, their own writing with invented spelling, and stories dictated by children to teachers.
5. Children learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. The natural world of plants and animals and meaningful activities like cooking, making attendance, or serving snack provide the basis for learning activities.
6. Children work on projects and have long periods of time (at least one hour) to play and explore. Worksheets are used little if at all.
7. Children have an opportunity to play outside every day. Outdoor play is never sacrificed for more instructional time.
8. Teachers read books to children individually or in small groups through-

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the Winter edition of the newsletter. With the recent snow and frigid temperatures, it seems as though winter really is here at last! The next edition will not be published until April, probably close to inspection time.

Don't forget to send articles, recommendations and interesting photographs or stories to dinoia@cox.net. Please try to send all entries by March 30, 2004. Entries should be sent in either a text email or word document.

Just a reminder that the newsletter will now be published quarterly. Please remember to check the web-site, www.lafayettevillage.org, frequently as it is constantly updated. The new format will allow for more updates and should keep you well-informed of LVCA events.

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles and have fun in the snow!
Jen Dinoia

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out the day, not just at group story time.

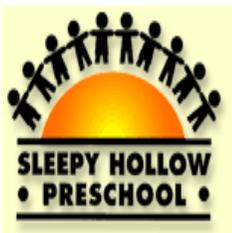
9. Curriculum is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. Teachers recognize that children's different background and experiences mean that they do not learn the same things at the same time in the same way.

10. Children and their parents look forward to school. Parents feel secure about sending their child to the program. Children are happy to attend; they do not cry regularly or complain of feeling sick.

(Permission granted by the NAEYC to reprint this material, copyrighted 1996).

One additional factor you will want to consider is whether a cooperative preschool is right for you. This form of preschool is owned and/or operated by a group of parents and staffed by professional teachers. A cooperative preschool encourages parents to share their interests and talents in the classroom, on a Board of Directors, or on committees. Many believe that communication with teachers and other parents, along with helping in the classroom and observing children as they play, learn, and grow, gives parents and children alike the best education possible. After participating in my son's class over the past several months, I have certainly found this to be the case.

Sleepy Hollow Preschool is a cooperative preschool (with non-cooperative options) that has served this community for over 50 years. Sleepy Hollow seeks to provide a warm and nurturing environment, and give the emotional support and encouragement needed by all children to learn and grow. If you would like additional information, please call us at (703) 941-9791 or visit our website at www.sleepyhollowpreschool.com. Best of luck in selecting the preschool that is right for you and your child.



Sleepy Hollow Preschool 7610 Newcastle Drive, Annandale, VA

With over 50 years of teaching experience, Sleepy Hollow offers a child-centered, developmentally appropriate program for children ages 2-5. We are a non-profit, non-sectarian, inclusive preschool with cooperative and non-cooperative options. For further information, please call (703) 941-9791 or visit our website at www.sleepyhollowpreschool.com.

NOTES FROM TRUDIE

NEW CONTRACTOR

The Board of Directors voted to change the grounds maintenance and snow plowing company at their November meeting. The new grounds maintenance company is Springfield Nursery, Inc. They will also be plowing and sanding the community streets this winter.

Due to the change of contractors, we have to submit instructions to the new company with regards to the mulching and trimming of bushes. If you are a homeowner who does not want your bushes mulched and/or trimmed, please send a written statement indicating your specific needs to Trudie Peterson at Armstrong Management. Please see the front page of the newsletter for Trudie's address.

TRASH

Have you ever picked up a piece of trash in the community and tried to throw it away in one of the trash receptacles along the sidewalk, only to find that it was filled with 'personal' trash? Unfortunately, some homeowners seem to think that they can put their trash from their home in the sidewalk trash receptacles. The trash receptacles are not for homeowner trash. Please refrain from using them as such. Thanks!

ARCHITECTURAL MODIFICATIONS AND INSPECTIONS

Prior to any exterior modification to your home, please completely fill out and submit an Architectural Modification Form. If you need one, please call Trudie Peterson at (703) 313-9359, ext. 3010 or you may email her at tpeterson@armstrong.net. Please ensure that you submit your request far enough in advance so that the Committee will have time to review and approve prior to your installation date (approximately 20 days).

Inspections – that dreaded word. Yes, it is coming up on that time of year where inspections will begin. We don't do it to be mean-spirited, it is simply that inspecting the community helps keep the value of your homes climbing! So, go outside on the first warm day and take a good look at your home. Do the rakeboard and wood trim need painting? Does the fence need replacing? If so, this is the time to contact contractors to get them lined up to work at your house, before the inspections take place.

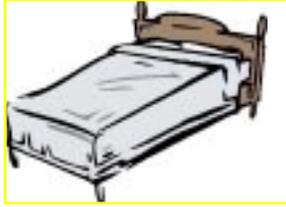
PETS IN THE COMMUNITY

All pet owners should be aware that their pets must be restrained on a leash (or carried) by a responsible person when the pet is outside either on the common area or on the property of another homeowner of the Association. Allowing a pet to run free is a violation of the rules of the Association and Fairfax County Ordinances. Every pet owner is also responsible for clean-up of their pet's waste on common areas, property of others and their own property.

This should be done not only as a courtesy to your neighbors, but to avoid creating an unhealthy condition in the community. Anyone violating either of these rules is subject to monetary charges of up to \$50 per violation or \$10 per day for a continuing violation being assessed by the Board. Fairfax County may also impose a fine of between \$250 (Pooper Scooper Regulation) to up to \$2,500 (for the dangerous or vicious dog ordinance). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

NOTICES & CLASSIFIED ADS

FURNITURE



Ethan Allen French Country wooden queen size headboard and bed frame, only 2 years old with a Provence finish.

The asking price is \$350.00, please call 703-795-1642 if you interested.

CLIP THIS REMINDER AND KEEP FOR REFERENCE!

LVCA HOA dues are to be received by Armstrong Management by the following dates:

April 1, 2004

July 1, 2004

October 1, 2004

RESTAURANTS

Are you looking for tasty American cuisine and a great environment? Try The Foxfire Grill which is located in the Whole Foods Shopping Center at the corner of Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike.

The grill is open for lunch, dinner and brunch on Sundays. The hours of operation are 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Try the grill if you are looking for a fabulous meal!

HOUSEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS

A recommendation from Hattie Waldren: "I had the interior of my house painted and will be getting the exterior done this spring. I was extremely happy with this company and thought I would share it with the community. They are neat and they clean up very nicely when they are done."

Classic Home Solutions, Inc.

Vienna, VA

Chris Kelliher - Painter

Lynn Kelliher - Administrator

703 938 4246

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FLOWERS, ANYONE?

A member of the Grounds Committee has recommended that the Association look into obtaining annuals from Springfield Nursery (the new grounds maintenance company) at cost. The Grounds Committee would then sell the flowers to the homeowners at cost. This would not be a money-making venture for the Association, as the homeowner price would be the Association price. The cost of the annual plants would be significantly less for the homeowner due to the flowers being purchased in such a large quantity. Homeowners could then plant the flowers in their yards which would help in beautifying the community and increase the value of all homes.

Prior to taking any action, the Board of Directors will review community feedback. If the Board purchased the flowers, would you be interested in purchasing them? If so, what type and color are you interested in? If you are interested in this program, it could be repeated in the fall. Please contact Trudie Peterson at tpeterson@armstrong.net or (703) 313-9359, extension 3010, and let her know if this program is one of interest to you. Thank you!