



September 2011



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families to Three Four Open the Door and welcome back our returning families. We are so excited to begin another wonderful year with all of you. This year marks the 17th “Back to School” for Three Four Open the Door.

We will have a modified schedule for the first day of school which is Wednesday, September 7th. Please read the details below to find out when your child attends school that day:

Wednesday, September 7th:

Monday/Wednesday 2's attend 9/10-12 (if you are a 2 and attend 3 or 4 days you may choose to attend this day or Thursday the 8th)

AM 3's and 4's attend from 9-12

5's and Kindergarten attend 8:45-1:30 or 2:00

NO LUNCH BUNCH TODAY

ALL DAY children – follow your regular schedule

Thursday, September 8th:

Tuesday/Thursday 2's 9/10-12

PM 3's and 4's attend from 9-12

5's and Kindergarten attend 8:45-1:30 or 2:00

NO LUNCH BUNCH TODAY

ALL DAY children – follow your regular schedule

Friday, September 9th - Regular School Day – Lunch Bunch begins today.

Regular School hours begin on Friday, September 10th. Our Two's Program is from 9:00 or 10:00 until 12:00; our Threes and Fours program is from 9:00-12:00; Lunch Bunch is from 12:00-1:30; 5's are from 8:45-1:30, Kindergarten is from 8:45-2:00. All Day programs open at 8:00 and end by 5:30.

We will be sending home white 3,4 Information Binders which can be picked up at Meet Your Teachers Day. In these binders you will find very important information such as – Annual calendar, School Directory, your child's class list, September Newsletter and Calendar, Policies and Procedures of 3,4, REVISED SICK POLICY, extra medical forms, playdate permission slips and a required form letting us know that you read and understand our policies and procedures. Each month we will be sending home the Newsletter and Calendar 3 hole punched as well as the monthly songs, reminders and any new information we think you should have. We encourage you to add all these things to your binders and keep them in a safe and convenient place where you can refer to them quickly. Because of cost we cannot replace lost binders.

Pizza Wednesdays start on Wednesday, September 14th. All children are able to attend pizza Wednesdays for an additional cost. Two's and Threes and Fours are able to attend for the cost of Lunch Bunch plus the cost of Pizza for the year. Fives and Kindergarten pay the annual pizza fee. The annual pizza fee is \$70 per slice. If you are interested in Lunch Bunch and/or Pizza Wednesdays please contact Jenn at jenncurley@34openthedoor.com.

Beginning in October we will be hosting parent coffees. These group discussions will be led by Susan

O'Brien – a local social worker and mom of four. The first one will take place on Friday, October 14th at 9:15 in our upstairs conference room. Please look in your Information Binder for more dates!

Also in your Information Binders - how to order books each month through Scholastic Book Club online! Simply go to www.scholastic.com/bookclubs and register for a user account using the access code provided in your binder. Books are delivered to school and sent home with your child once per month. Our first deadline is September 30th.

Pick up/Drop off – If you choose to participate in our drop off program it begins at 8:45am for 5's and Kindergarten and 9:00am for Threes and Fours. We ask that you please pull in the entrance and bear to the left so that you are in the lane closest to the school. If you are dropping off please pull up to the drop off sign, and a teacher will meet you. Please note that a teacher will start to unload the children at 8:45 and 9:00. Drop off ends at 9:15am. We ask that if you arrive before 8:45am that you pull into the parking lot and park as we do not want the drop off line to become congested. Any time before your class is scheduled to begin is reserved for daily teacher prep. If you are bringing your children into school please park in a designated parking spot in the back parking lot. It is important that you remain in your car at pick up time. We will have enough teachers available to load your children into your car and strap them in safely. If you need to speak to a teacher or parent at pick up we ask that you pull through to the parking lot and park or call the school at 454-1924.

We are still young and accidents do happen. Please bring an **extra change of clothes** (tops, bottoms, multiple pairs of underwear and socks) with you on your first day of school that can be left in your child's backpacks for future use. Please label all articles of clothing and put them in a plastic bag with your child's name on the outside. You can replace them throughout the year with seasonably appropriate clothes.

Just a look ahead to October – Parents Nights will be Tuesday, October 11th (time to be determined) for the Infants and Toddlers in Miss Lucy and Miss Wendy's room and Thursday, October 13th from 6:00-7:30 for the 2's, 3's and 4's, Fives and Kindergarten Programs.

Two's Program

We have so many new and exciting projects and activities planned! During the first two weeks of school we will be helping the children become familiar with the daily routine. We will also be focusing on friendship and learning how to make new friends. Some of the choice time projects include decorating our Friday Folders, Apple printing, Fall stamping, Bubble Wrap printing and Tissue Paper leaves. Our Work Time projects will be Dot Art, School Bus Placemats, Leaf collages, Fingerprint Apple Trees and Tissue Paper Apples. We will be reading the Very Hungry Caterpillar this month and will be creating stick puppets to go along with the story. It will be so fun to use these puppets at home as you read the Very Hungry Caterpillar together!

Each child will have a folder that will be taken home on the last day of the week they attend school. We ask that you empty the folders over the weekend and return them to your teachers the first day of the week that you are back at school.

Please pack an extra change of clothes as well as any pull-ups/diapers (if they use them) and wipes in your child's back pack. These will stay in the back pack and be used if needed.

Threes and Fours Program

We have so many new and exciting projects planned this year! One project is our weekly sock puppet that will correspond to our letter of the week. Each week children will be creating these puppets by cutting and gluing together foam and other materials that resemble an animal or object that correspond with the letter sound on the letter as part of our Work Time. There will also be a song that corresponds to the letter sound to reinforce phonemic awareness. At the end of each week the puppet along with other projects made that week, and cutting and tracing will be sent home in our Friday Folders.

The first three weeks of school we will be easing into our routine by talking about what makes each of us unique and special and what it means to be a friend. Our songs for these weeks will be "I am Special",

“Friends, Friends”, “Special Me,” and “Pretty, Pretty Firefly.” The lyrics to these songs will be sent home for you to sing at home!

Some of our beginning of the year projects includes tissue paper Apple of my Eye bulletin board project, cooking Apple Pizza (recipe will be sent home), I Am Special Mirrors, and Apple Tree Placemats that will be sent home with our class friends and teachers pictures on them. They will be helpful to use at home, especially at meal time to spark conversations and to practice our new friends’ names. We also will be creating and playing a group game, called Colored Bean Bag Toss. This game will help us learn our classmate’s names, and help develop color recognition skills. We will begin our alphabet journey the last week in September with the letter “F”. This year we will be making Firefly Sock Puppet, Sponge painting Flowers, Sorting fruit loops, and exploring our senses by playing the Same and Different game as a group using apples. We will also be introducing our handwriting program Foundations and the Foundations friends Echo and Little Echo who are owls who help us learn phonemic awareness and letter formation. This curriculum will be used throughout our programs starting in the Two’s. This program also is used in the Westport Public School Systems.

Friday Folders will be sent home the last day of the week that your child attends school. We ask that you empty the folders over the weekend and return them to your teachers the first day of the week that you are back at school. If these folders should become lost we ask that you please replace them as they make sending home your child’s precious work so much easier.

Fives and Kindergarten Program

During the first few weeks of September we will focus on becoming acquainted with our classroom, friends and teachers. We have many new and exciting projects and activities in store! One focus this month will be Apples. We will taste and graph Apples as part of a math project. We will also begin with our Stern Math program. We will be studying a different Author and Illustrator each month. For the month of September it will be Kevin Henkes. Reading and Writing will be incorporated into our daily curriculum. Miss Renea, Miss Linda and Miss Libby will be conducting Reading Assessments during the month of September. Our letters for the month of September are H, S and T.

Friday Folders will be sent home each Friday. We ask that you empty the folders over the weekend and return them to your teachers each Monday. If these folders should become lost we ask that you please replace them as they make sending home your child’s work so much easier.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your children!

**Miss Cyndi, Miss Jenn, Bobby, Miss Leslie,
Miss Lori, Miss Linda, Miss Jen S., Miss Marianne, Miss Lucy, Miss Wendy, Miss Renea, Miss
Libby, Miss Tanya and Miss Hillary**