



Arcola Christian Preschool

"Let the little children come to Me . . . for of such is
the kingdom of God."
(Luke 18:16 NKIV)

February 2019

Director's Note

February! Valentines, pajamas, school pictures . . . Time flies when you are having fun. It is amazing to see how much your children have grown and changed so far this year. They are busy making new friends, enjoying new activities, and becoming more confident. There are still lots of fun things to look forward to this school year. Thank you for sharing your children with us each day. They are a blessing! We have attached two articles, "Fun, Easy Ways to Play with Math at Home" and "A Letter to Parent on Table Toys," for a variety of ways you can help your child develop important skills.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Barbara

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2019-2020 Registration for ACP – DEADLINE 2/15

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year has begun. Information and forms are available in the Lobby of the Worship Center and on our web site (www.ArcolaChurch.org). I've also attached one to this newsletter in case you need it or want to pass it on to a friend.

If your child is a current student interested in returning next year, you will need to register again.

All applications must be received by **noon on February 15, 2019** to be included in the lottery.

Valentine's Day Note



It is a lot of fun for the children to exchange cards on Valentine's Day.

Although not necessary, we know that some families like to add treats to their cards. Please plan to be inclusive to our students with food allergies. If you send in a treat with your child's valentines, there must be a label for the parent to read and items must be nut free. However, there are children with other allergies in our preschool so, if you'd like to send a treat, we ask you to consider looking for non-food items that children would enjoy such as pencils, silly straws, stickers, etc.

Scholastic Book Orders

This month's **orders are due February 20**. Remember, placing your online credit card order is completely safe and secure.

Web address: scholastic.com/bookclubs

Class Activation Code: GZVWY

Admin Notes

Illness

Reminder – If your child is ill, they cannot return to school until 24 hours after their symptoms (fever, vomiting, diarrhea) have subsided. We play outside every day so if they cannot go outside, please keep them home. Thank you for helping keep all of our children healthy!

Tuition

Tuition payments are **due the first of each month**. We rely on your timely payments to pay our staff and purchase supplies.

Absences

If your child is going to be out of school due to illness or travel, please inform your child's teacher or the preschool office.

Odds and Ends

Please be sure to label all clothes, jackets, and school bags with your child's name. Many children do not recognize their own jackets when there are several others that look similar.

Snack

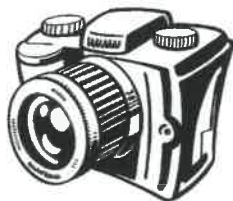
All snacks must be nut free – that includes peanuts and tree nuts. Snacks must be store bought with labels we can read and be unopened. **Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all students safe.**

Warm Clothes

We play outside every day unless it is raining or the playground is covered in snow. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately with all items labeled. If your child cannot put on their own gloves, please help the teachers and send MITTENS instead! We want the children to feel as independent as possible (plus, mittens keep their hands warmer). Thank you!!!

School Pictures

Lifetouch Preschool Portraits will take individual and class photos on February 28 and March 1! We offer this as a service to our families so there is no requirement to purchase. Please make sure to arrive on time on picture day. We will send more information home soon.



Arcola Christian Preschool Calendar:

February 15 – Registration deadline at noon
February 19 – NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day
February 28 & March 1 – School Pictures
March 5-8 (9:30-10:15am) – Dads and Donuts (3s and 4s)
March 5 – 4s MTuTh
March 6 – 4s MWF and M-Th
March 7 – 3s MTuTh & TuTh
March 8 – 3s WF

Upcoming events at Arcola Church

Please look at our church website for more information about our church and these upcoming groups or events. More are listed online. Feel free to share this information with friends. All are welcome.

Moms with Littles

Join us for "Moms with Littles" on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 9:30-10:30am in Room 110. We'll drink coffee, nibble on snacks, discuss scripture and share the joys and challenges of motherhood. Free childcare available upon request.

<https://arcolachurch.org/event/1206770-2019-02-07-moms-with-littles/>

Refill Wednesday

Our next Refill Wednesday will be on February 6 at 6pm. Come for a great time of fellowship and a meal prepared by Arcola volunteers. Go [online](#) and RSVP. <https://arcolachurch.org/event/1163991-2019-02-06-refill-wednesdays/>

Marriage Enrichment Dinner – February 9

Join us for some great food, conversation and learn some new ways on how you and your spouse or partner can get closer. This year's title is *In the name of God, and with a thankful heart, I once again declare...*

The session will be led by Pastor Chris Riedel and Molly Riedel, Nurse Psychotherapist and Director of Caring at Arcola Church. Childcare is available. Go online to register. <https://arcolachurch.org/event/1219248-2019-02-09-marriage-enrichment-dinner/>

Arcola United Methodist Church

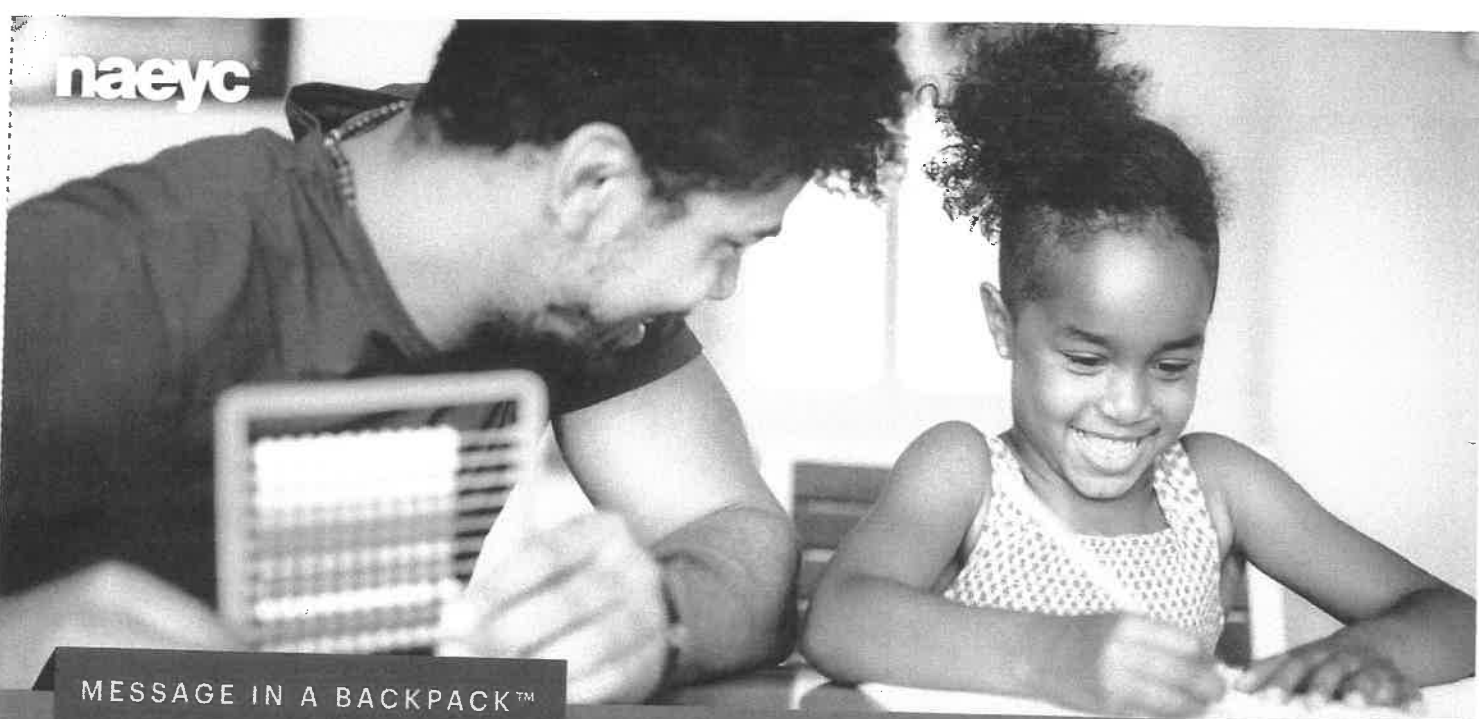
Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

Sunday worship times: 8, 9:15 & 11am





If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in the life of Arcola Church, please send me an e-mail (BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org) and I will have you added to the church newsletter e-mail distribution list.



MESSAGE IN A BACKPACK™

Fun, Easy Ways to Play with Math at Home

Jessica Mercer Young and Kristen E. Reed

1. **Sing songs and chant!** Many songs, chants, and verses have patterns. Learning a song's pattern helps children remember the song. Patterns *repeat in a predictable way that helps children know what comes next*. Songs and chants, like "Five Green and Speckled Frogs," "Five Little Monkeys," "Hokey Pokey," and "Ten Little Fingers," teach number order—children count up or down from a number. They also teach spatial words, like *on*, *in*, *out*, and *around*.
2. **Read picture books.** Visit your local library and check out great picture books about counting, numbers, patterns, measurement, shapes, and engineering. For ideas, take a look at the book lists at ym.edc.org/math-books/published-books and earlymath.erikson.edu/series/book-ideas.
3. **Use your fingers.** When children count on their fingers, they are strengthening their number knowledge and their ability to visualize numbers in their minds. You and your child can play these two games with fingers, toys, and other objects—or even people!
 - › **How Many Do You See?** Have your child count your fingers and see how many different ways you can "show 5" on two hands. Then, you can show numbers up to 10. Eventually, add your child's hands and go up to 20.
 - › **How Many Are Hiding?** Start with your whole hand and "hide" some fingers.  Ask children, "How many fingers are hiding?" 
4. **Do puzzles.** Playing with puzzles helps children to think about spatial relationships, identify shapes, look for patterns, and find solutions. Start with easy jigsaw puzzles and add more challenging ones when your child is ready. You can even make your own puzzles by drawing a picture and cutting it into two, three, four, or more pieces!
5. **Build together.** Building with materials like blocks, cardboard boxes, Legos, K'nex, Magna-Tiles, or Lincoln Logs helps children develop strong spatial skills.
6. **Try origami.** The creations children make by folding paper help them develop strong spatial skills as well as logical and sequential thinking. In addition to being art, origami can be found in packaging all around us—pizza boxes, paper bags, envelopes, and take-out containers. Folding (and unfolding) paper helps children think in two and three dimensions and see how the sequence of steps affects the final design.



This message is meant to be cut out, photocopied, and sent home with children as a resource for parents! It is also available online at NAEYC.org/tyc.



- 7. **Play board games.** While playing games like Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, HiHo Cherry-O, and Sorry, children move a game piece one space at a time while counting the number of spaces (an important math skill). Your child will practice recognizing the numbers of dots showing on the die without counting them. She'll also develop perseverance, engage in problem solving, and learn from mistakes.
- 8. **Play card games.** Games like Memory, Go Fish, War, Slap Jack, Crazy Eights, Uno, and Sleeping Queens give children practice in recognizing and comparing numbers. They also help children learn to pay attention to things like shape, number, and color.

Parent Tips

- › Mistakes are OK! Making mistakes is a part of learning new things. When your child makes a mistake, ask questions like, "What happened?," "What would you do differently next time?," to help him see it, and talk about what he can learn from the experience.
- › Children tend to mimic parents' attitudes about math. As you play these games, have fun! If you are having fun, they will too! Working through a challenge is also what makes games enjoyable. It's no fun to play a game that's too easy. If things get tough, you can remind children that sometimes math makes us think hard, but that challenges are good for our brains.

Photographs: © Getty Images



This information has been adapted from *Games for Young Mathematicians*, a program of research in early mathematics at the Education Development Center (EDC), supported by funding from the National Science Foundation and Heising-Simons Foundation. For more math information and games, visit ym.edc.org.



A Letter to Parents on Table Toys

What We Do and Why

Table toys include puzzles, various table blocks, and other small construction materials such as Legos, Ring-a-Majigs, and collections of objects (including shells, bottle caps, and buttons). When children use table toys, they learn many new skills and concepts, including:

- sorting and classifying things according to their own categories;
- judging distance, direction, right and left, up and down; and
- describing what they are thinking and doing.

When children use table toys in the classroom, we encourage them to talk about what they are doing. For example, we might say:

- “Tell me about those blocks you are using.”
- “How did you get those rings to fit together?”

We also ask questions that help children extend their thinking as they play with table toys. For example:

- “You grouped all the bottle tops by color. Can you put them together any other way?”
- “You’ve picked out all the pegs that are the same. Can you tell me how they are the same?”

These questions and comments are designed to help the children become aware of what they doing and develop their thinking skills.

What You Can Do at Home

Small colored cubes, those about one inch square, offer many opportunities for your child to build patterns and designs. These cubes can be made into a tower, a corral, or other formations, depending on the child’s interest. Colored cubes such as beads can be used to make patterns of colors and sizes: red, blue, yellow, and then repeat; large, small, medium, and then repeat.

You might collect various small objects such as buttons, seashells, rocks, and plastic bottle tops. You can give your child a tray to use on the floor if the surface isn’t level, or let your child sit at a table to play. Make suggestions such as sorting all the buttons that are the same color or all the beads that are the same size. Encourage your child to tell you about the design he or she is making or why things belong together.

Playing with table toys at home promotes a child’s development in many important ways. However, the most important contribution you can make to your child’s learning with table toys is to take an interest in what your child does, both at home and in school. We welcome you to the classroom at any time. In this way you can see for yourself how much your child is learning.