

Story Place Preschool

1477 South Schodack Road, Castleton, NY 12033

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Storyplacepreschool.com



Upcoming Events

April 21

Family Training

May 24

Closed for Memorial Day

June 18

Last Day of School/Family Fun Day Picnic

July 6

6 week summer program begins

Family Training

We are excited to announce that we will be having a parent/family in-service on Tuesday, April 21st, from 6:30-8:30pm. The title of the in-service is "Alternative Methods to Promote Healthy Children." The presenters are Dr. Amy Burelson, a local Chiropractor and our very own, Rochelle Sibilica, Certified Holistic Health Coach. Keep your eyes out for more information that will be sent home with your child soon!

School News

We would like to welcome some new staff to the Story Place team. We would like to welcome a new substitute, Michele Atwater, two 1:1 aides, Vanessa and Jenna, and the new Shooting Stars Special Education Teacher, Meghan Leddick. We would also like to welcome a new Occupational Therapist, Michelle Nash. We are also very excited about our new Social Work team. Meagan Banker is our new Social Worker providing play therapy to students as well as counseling to families. Lynn Myers is our new psychologist and family services coordinator. Sarah Altwerger is the new Social Work department supervisor. We are excited about the new services this team is going to provide to Story Place. Lynn has already begun to put together a family training on the topic; Alternative Methods to Promote Healthy Children.

The staff at Story Place would like to congratulate Amy Otterbeck, a Physical Therapist, on 20 years with Story Place! Amy brightens Story Place with your cheerful, energetic personality! The staff and children are lucky to have Amy! Amy, Thank you for 20 years of dedication to Story Place and the field of pediatric Physical Therapy!

Reminders:

- Make sure your child has a labeled, weather appropriate, change of clothes in his/her cubby.
 - Be mindful of driving speeds near schools.
 - Please arrive on time for drop-offs and pick-ups.
 - Send your child to school in sneakers for the gym and outdoor play.
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Little Bears (Developmental Toddler Group)

Little Bears friends had a very busy winter and are looking forward to the warmer weather. We have made many new friends; Philip, Khye, Gabriel, Mustifah, Zoe and Trey. We are so happy they are here to join us in all the fun! We have been learning their names and enjoyed playing together.

While having fun, the Little Bears are learning many new skills all the time. All of our friends enjoy singing songs at circle time and even have the opportunity to have a daily job! We continue to work on self-help skills such as: cleaning-up, dressing and undressing, washing and drying hands and using utensils at snack time. Some themes we have been exploring the past few months are; friendship, colors, numbers (1-10), shapes, dental hygiene, and feelings. Some of the books and songs we enjoy include; "If You're Happy and You Know It," "The Wheels on the Bus," "Brown Bear, Brown Bear," and "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie." We would like to wish some of our friends Happy Birthdays; Ian (3/10), Mustifah (4/16), Maya (5/3), Alle (5/9), and Veda (5/12).

The Little Bears Team; Ms. Nicole, Ms. Dale, Ms. Lisa (Therapists- Ms. Jackie, Ms. Jamie, Ms. Amy, Ms. Kasey, Ms. Carrie, Ms. Meagan)

Busy Bees (Integrated Preschool Class)

Greetings from the Busy Bees! It has been so cold this winter we had have hardly been able to play outside. So, what do you do with stored up energy??? We let it out during our preschool SUPERBOWL! The kids and staff had a blast with a round of games including an agility course, kicking contest, football toss, and course "the big game", where everyone went home a winner! We have some birthdays that we would like to acknowledge: Julian (2/23), Aidan (2/28), Erika (4/4), Drew (3/2), Jack (4/18), Emma and Liam (5/24), Samantha (5/27), Gabriel (5/27), and Noah K (5/30). Happy Birthday to all of you!!!

During the month of February our busy little bees will be learning about dental hygiene, nutrition and transportation. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, we will be learning about family, friends and LOVE. The class will be having a Valentine's Day party on Friday, February 13th to exchange cards and enjoy some yummy treats. A note will be going home with more details and parents are welcome to attend.

In the month of March we will be looking forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day, filled with crazy pranks from one sneaky little leprechaun. We will also be gearing up for spring to arrive with themes like Dr. Seuss, Fairy Tales, Nursery Rhymes and Eric Carle. During these next two months the Busy Bees will be learning concepts such as opposites, patterns, rhyming words, tracing and positional vocab. The students will also be introduced to their address, phone number and last name.

The Busy Bees Team: Ms. Sam, Ms. Molly, Ms. Crystal, & Mr. Jason (Therapists- Ms. Kristin, Ms. Wendy, Ms. Amy, Ms. Meagan)

Awesome Owls (Integrated Preschool Class)

The Awesome Owls have been very busy with so many fun themes to explore; Ground Hogs Day, Valentine's Day, Nursery Rhymes, St. Patrick's Day, and spring. We will continue to work on recognizing and printing numbers 15-20, spelling and printing our last names and all the letters of the alphabet. We really enjoy our weekly Handwriting Without Tears Group with Ms. Kim. Lastly, we are

working on self-help skills; cleaning up after ourselves, zipping and snapping our own coats and lunch boxes.

We would like to wish Happy Birthdays to some of our friends; Devon (4/4), Brandon (4/6), and Seamus. The Awesome Owls Team: Ms. Diane, Ms. Sandra, and Ms. Sabina (Therapists- Ms. Jessa, Ms. Carrie, and Ms. Amy)



Mighty Maples (Self-Contained Preschool Class)

The Mighty Maples have been flexing their superhero muscles as we fly into the New Year. We have been working hard learning about sequencing, talking about hibernation and migration, and honing our listening skills. We have learned about some interesting animals, courtesy of Jan Brett and her books *The Hat* and *The Mitten*, throughout the month of January. As we move into February, we will talk more about snow, snowmen and wind things up with a discussion about what is health for our bodies. Please keep in mind that we need healthy foods to fuel our growing bodies! We will be introducing a cooking group into our week, and will learn about poring, measuring and mixing up some nutritious treats. Throughout the month of March, we will talk about transportation and begin talking about spring!

The Mighty Maples have recently welcomed some new superheroes onto our team! We are excited to have Khloe, Sophia and Tyler join our team, as well as a superhero support member, Ms. Vanessa! We would also like to wish Happy Birthdays to Max (3/24) and Prasanth (4/16).

Please don't forget to let us know about important appointments with developmental pediatricians or specialists- we'd love to support your children in any way we can! Also, please feel free to write about milestones that are being observed at home in the communication journal that is sent home each day. And, as always, thank you for all you do to support our team every day!

The Mighty Maples Team: Ms. Rebecca, Ms. Diana, Ms. Jessica, Ms. Wendy, Ms. Sandy, and Ms. Vanessa (Therapists- Ms. Carrie, Ms. Kasey, Ms. Kim, Ms. Amy, Ms. Michelle and Ms. Meagan)

Speckled Frogs (Integrated Preschool Class)

The Speckled Frogs classroom would like to welcome our new friends; Gaige, Jenna, Landon and Malia. We would like to welcome back; Riya and Bailey. We have been very busy learning about germs and how to keep our bodies healthy; hibernating animals and winter. Since we haven't been able to get outside due to the weather conditions, the children are learning to use a soccer ball, play basketball and play other group games in the gym. The Frog would like to give Happy Birthday shout outs to; Paige (2/10), Gaige (2/16), Ayden 2/23, Jenna (3/14), Renee (3/24), and Giovanni (3/25).

Shooting Stars (Integrated Class)

The Shooting Stars would like to welcome some new faces to the classroom. First we are so happy to have a new Special Education Teacher, Meghan. We would also like to welcome some new children; Kirsten, Kyra, Sebastian and Lucas. We would also like to wish Happy Birthdays to; Kirsten (2/24), Lucas (3/12), Lance (4/6), and Sophia (5/21).

Shooting Stars have been exploring the following themes; winter, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and spring. We will continue to work to improve letter and number recognition as well as our ability

to read "sight words." As a reminder; please help us promote healthy eating by packing healthy lunches.

Pumpkin Patch (Self-Contained Class)

It's been an exciting year so far. The Pumpkin Patch classroom is wrapping up the hibernation and migration/winter animals unit. The kids really enjoyed this unit. We celebrated one February birthday; Jacob (2/28) and will be celebrating on April birthday; Oliver (4/26). We would like to welcome a new staff member, 1:1 aide, in the Pumpkin Patch classroom. Her name is Jenna. During the month of February we enjoyed exploring winter, snow and snowmen. The end of the month was dedicated to dental health awareness and healthy eating.

Please don't forget to send your child to school in sneakers for the gym as well as appropriate clothing for playing outdoors.

The Childcare Provider

Although I'm not their mother,
I care for them each day.
I cuddle, sing, and read to them,
And watch them as they play.
I see each new accomplishment,
And help them grow and learn.
I understand their language,
And I listen with concern.
They come to me for comfort,
And I kiss away their tears.
They proudly show their work to me,
I give the loudest cheers!
No, I am not their mother,
But my role is just as strong.
I nurture them and keep them safe,
Though maybe not for long.
I know someday the time may come
When we will have to part.
But I know each child I've cared for
Is forever in my heart!