

OCTOBER 2023



## Routines!

At the beginning of the school year, our first job is to help children feel safe at school. There are a lot of expectations at school that are different than what happen at home. We work to communicate with children what to expect.

We teach children what to expect for circle time, meal times, outside time, bathroom time, and rest time. Children that attended preschool last year are already familiar with the rules, and they are role models for children who are learning for the first time. When children learn what to expect at school, it helps them to feel safe. They know what is coming next and what they are supposed to do.



Children feel more confident and secure when they know what will happen next. A consistent routine allows children to have a predictable day. Predictability helps children

feel more in control of their environment. When children live in organized and predictable environments, they learn to self-regulate in organized and predictable ways. Children with regular routines have greater self-regulation skills, and self-regulation skills lead to better mental health.

Forming close relationships with trusted adults is another way to help young children feel safe. When we are able to laugh together and share fun things together, we are building a learning community. Children learn best when they feel safe and valued. Room 1 has a chime that sounds when the door opens. Some of the children like to dance when they hear the chime. Ms. Sylvia encourages this silly tradition as it build the classroom's community feeling.



# GERVAIS PRESCHOOL

## Safety Drills



This school year, preschool students have participated in a fire drill, a lockdown drill, and a bus evacuation drill. It is important for young children to practice emergency procedures because it helps them to know what to do in case of a real emergency. Practicing reduces confusion, panic, and injury.

Before participating in the Safety Drills, children read a social story in each classroom. Social stories help to prepare young children to learn what to expect in new situations. Since young children typically are unable to read at 3 and 4 years old, our social stories have pictures and sometimes photographs to help them understand what will happen and what is expected from them.

At Gervais School District, each school participates in fire drills monthly. Bus drills are practiced once a year. Keeping students safe is a high priority.



The photo to the left shows children in room 3 and teachers leading children out the gate to evacuate the school during the fire drill. There is a teacher at the front of the line and one at the rear. After leaving the school, children are counted and then we do a “face to face” check to make certain we have every child accounted for. We relay this information to the administrator in charge of the drill.



Parent-Teacher Conferences October 11 & 12

Teacher Inservice October 13

Pumpkin Patch Trip October 30

Costume/PJ day October 31

November 10- No school

November 20-24 Fall Break (no school)

## Important Dates