

Little Wonders Express

January 2012 Full day Edition

Another Auld Lang Syne

Can it be so? 2012 is already upon us! Where does the time go? Welcome 2012, and welcome back parents and friends of Little Wonders.

We look upon New Years as a wonderful time to set program goals and objectives and evaluate and assess our progress on resolutions from years past.

In 2004, we resolved to start the wheels in motion to earn National Accreditation. In 2005, we completed the process and in July, learned that the National Association of Educators of Young Children (or NAEYC), validated our Program with the distinction known only to the BEST early childhood programs! In 2006, we resolved to join the "information superhighway" and develop a Little Wonders Web Site that will inform existing families and attract prospective families. Our web site www.littlewonders.net is a wealth of information for our existing families and for prospective families. In 2007 we resolved to cut our usage of paper and send our newsletters and many important notices via e mail. We are pleased to report as of this writing, over 98% of our families currently participate in the "Little Wonders Goes Green" Program. In 2008, we resolved to once again

be on the cutting edge and participate in the State's Universal Pre-Kindergarten Assessment Program, the first step in what will be a long journey toward participation in a state wide Universal Pre kindergarten Program. In 2009, we resolved to implement a Parent Group and have successfully launched policies and events through the endeavor.



In 2010, we resolved to become recertified through the NAEYC which we accomplished this past summer. We continue to be the only preschool in Rutland to be so honored and one of the few in the Wachusett District. In 2012 we resolve to continue to provide the BEST preschool education in the Region. We thank you for your resolution to be a part of our family, and promise to work hard every day in 2012 and beyond to make each day your child spends with us wonderful.

School is a place with tomorrow inside.

Anonymous



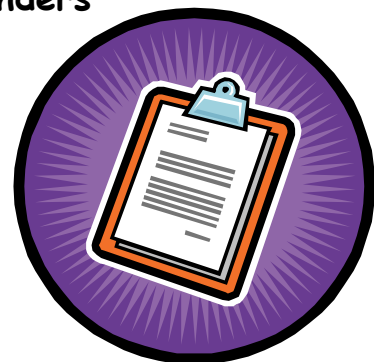
**Center Open for Daycare Students for Martin
Luther King Holiday**

Just a reminder, Little Wonders will be open and operational on **Monday, January 16, for Full day Students! Students who participate in the **Alternative WRSD Care Program will NOT have school!****

Happy Birthday Dr. King!

For your Information

Under EEC Regulations, Preschools are required to complete bi-annual assessments of your child's progress. As you know, Little Wonders provides these much more frequently in our "Happy Grams". Should you find yourself with any questions or concerns about your child's school progress at any time, please feel free to call Allison. Your child's progress is one of our favorite topics of discussion.

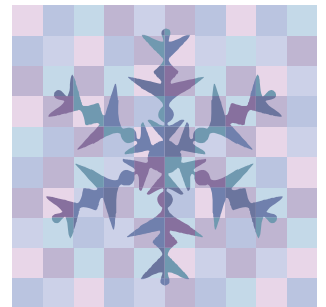


Little Wonders answers the question; What happens in the event of a severe snow storm?

Welcome to New England! The summer nights are cool. The fall foliage is spectacular! The spring blossoms are vibrant and fragrant! The winter *&%@#*! Actually, winter time is wonderful too, the driving is just a bit more tricky.

When the Wachusett District finds it necessary to cancel or delay school because of poor driving conditions, our first priority is the health and safety of our children and staff. We balance safety with your need to get to work even on inclement weather days.

Unless a State of Emergency is declared, Little Wonders will open at our usual time of 7 am. In the event of a State of Emergency, we will be required to close. Likewise, if we lose power or heat, it would be necessary for us to close. This is a State requirement.



Should conditions become poor during the day, Little Wonders reserves the right to close school early to ease transportation concerns for staff and parents. In the event we must close early, you will be called to come and pick up your child.

Why Pre-school?

Preschool. All of our children participate in it. We can't imagine life without it. Yet, sometimes, we need to remind ourselves; *why do we need it?* The answer is quite clear. Many parents attended kindergarten, some even preschool prior to that. However, in Massachusetts, public kindergarten, in some areas, is a relatively new concept. A million years ago, when I attended preschool and

kindergarten, both were a time for socialization. A chance to be with children of the same age, learn to be without Mom for a couple of hours, and maybe make a friend or two.

Although those aspects are still an essential part of preschool, there is still so much more material to be presented and concepts to be covered. Upon the passing of the Education Reform Act, kindergarten frameworks became more standardized and rigorous. The sometimes staggering amount of material to be covered makes current kindergarten programs look more like first or second grade classrooms of the past.

In a training session with kindergarten teachers, we were provided with a brief summary of skills which are helpful for "incoming" kindergarteners to have mastered. Although *there is no requirement for children to master these skills before entering kindergarten*, we have structured our program to highlight these skills:

Write their first name and know most of the letters in the name

Rote count to 20, ordinal count to fifth

Identify and name shapes (circle, square, rectangle & triangle)

Identify Numerals 0-10

Know days of the week and months

Recite full name, address, phone and birthday

Identify most capital letters

Understand the concept of rhyming nonsense words & real words

When asked what we could do to prepare our preschool students for kindergarten, we were told without hesitation; **self help, self help, self help**. A child who is able to dress and undress,

handle routine toileting and care for and identify their own belongings, is a child who will find the kindergarten process a whole lot less overwhelming.

Every activity we plan, every task we ask the children to complete, every aspect of a typical day at Little Wonders is preparing your child for the "next step"; be it another year in preschool, kindergarten, or first grade.

As partners in this process, we are sure that every child who takes that next step will be as ready as they can possibly be. It's hard work, but the rewards are endless!

