

Welcome to the Giraffe Room. We are glad to have you join us! Let us introduce ourselves:

We have two lead teachers who work in this classroom, Miss Karyssa and Miss Jackie. We also have a few teachers who fill in during the week. These include Miss Bridgette, Miss Bridget, and Miss Abby.

Hello! My name is Miss Karyssa. I have been a part of the Little Folks family since March of 2013. I graduated with my Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education in May of 2015 from Moraine Park Technical College. I like to spend time outside and with my husband, Mike, and Bently, our dog. I also enjoy playing softball. I look forward to working with you and your child!

Hi, I'm Miss Jackie. I have been with Little Folks School House since 2013. In my free time I love to spend time with my family and friends. I am a huge sports fan and love the Badgers, Packers, Brewers, and auto racing (especially dirt racing). I look forward to getting to know your family!

As your child's teachers we look forward to a partnership with you- the parent. If you should have questions or concerns about your child a message can be passed through the office by phone or e-mail and will be addressed by the teachers. As the classroom staff we try to maintain similar expectations, and consistency in our routine to better help all the children in our care. It is important we set basic rules and stick to them consistently, as you do at home. Our room philosophy is focused on positive choices and natural consequences. As your child's teachers we collectively prefer to use redirection and appropriate choices rather than time outs.

We understand that starting school is an important milestone in life, and that many things contribute to a child's readiness for school. In the classroom we use theme-based units each incorporating activities in language, math, sensory, art, music, motor skills, and social development. We also understand that a child learns to prepare for school through teacher planned, everyday activities and play, and work to provide a balance in learning. In the classroom we work on helping your child with achieving some of these skills, and work to create a setting that encourages creativity, motivation, cooperation and persistence.

Some of the skills we focus on are:

- Confidence
- Relationships with friends
- Language development –how to communicate needs, wants, and thoughts to adults and other children
- The ability to follow instructions and routines
- Responsibility for our own actions and belongings
- Self-help skills such as self-serving meals, getting ourselves dressed and ready for school, and caring for our personal needs

There is a strong link between what preschoolers know about books, words, sounds, and letters and their readiness for school. We help to do this by teaching the children the Literacy Links system, a system of hand symbols used with letter sounds. This is also taught in the Kewaskum School District. The Giraffe Teachers encourage questions and use humor in helping your child learn to enjoy books which is crucial. Over time, we will encourage your preschooler to help tell the stories in books, particularly with our favorite ones, and will read for fun with your child.

During circle time we build an understanding of simple concepts such as numbers, time, distance, and shapes which will help your child develop the math skills they will need at school. We will explore science through nature walks, our sensory table, and rotating items in our science center. Dramatic play and housekeeping centers will help to develop children's social skills through play. Play is the "work" of children. Through play your preschooler will explore and discover the world and his or her role in it.

### **Things you should know...**

Breakfast is served until 8:00am. If you would like your child to have breakfast please leave adequate time to eat unrushed. This is especially important for children riding the morning bus. Our cook is happy to help prepare and serve any breakfast food that you provide. Little Folks provides milk. Any food that is to be kept here needs to be sent and stored in an airtight container. Frozen or refrigerated items such as waffles or yogurt may be kept in our refrigerator or freezer as long as they are labeled with your child's name. We don't have much freezer space so we ask that you limit your frozen items to enough for just one week at a time.

If your child will be absent due to illness or any other reason, it is important to notify the Little Folks office by 8:00am. This is especially important for children riding the bus to or from 4K. If you know in advance that your child will be absent please leave a note for the office or email [littlefolks.schoolhouse@gmail.com](mailto:littlefolks.schoolhouse@gmail.com) as having accurate counts in our classrooms helps with our staff scheduling.

The Giraffe Room still has a nap/quiet rest time for all our children. Please send in a sleeping bag or small blanket and label it with your child's name. If your child wakes up or does not fall asleep within thirty minutes they will be moved to an area in the room with a light source and provided with quiet activities. Your child's bedding will be sent home at the end of the week to be laundered.

Accidents and spills can happen as your child continues to grow. Please provide a seasonably appropriate set of extra clothes (or more if your child is prone to bathroom accidents). Teachers will help guide your child through dressing themselves assisting as necessary. We appreciate your help in keeping your child clean, dry, and comfortable.

Our classroom goes outside daily. It is important for you to send in appropriate outdoor clothing: boots, snow pants, hat, mittens, etc. in the winter and a swimsuit and towel in the summer. Our room also takes neighborhood walks quite often. We suggest that children keep a pair of tennis shoes in their cubby if they are frequently sent to daycare in flip flops or "fancy shoes".

Finally, please communicate to the teachers any events that may alter your child's day. This could be a sleepless night, a sick relative or an unexpected event. We look forward to meeting and working with you during your child's time as a Giraffe. Welcome!!