**New Horizons Child Care Center**

Hello Families,

Welcome to the Pre-K Fours Classroom! This school year will be filled with lots of excitement. Learning will include playing, exploring, and making new friends! Our purpose is to give you a peace of mind, knowing that your child is in a safe, secure, and happy atmosphere, while they enjoy the fun and gain life-long learning skills.

During free time or center time, the children are given the opportunity to learn through free choice and play; some of the many center choices offered include music, home living, science, math, reading, writing, and more.

New Horizons Child Care is literacy based and we use creative curriculum. Every week there is a fun theme that enhances and encourages the learning process. To accompany the them we focus on a number, shape, color, and at least two sight words each week. Daily, we focus on structured writing so the children can learn how to write their names, as well as the letter or number of the week. One we have mastered our letters, we will move on to writing a word starting with that letter. Towards the end of the year, we will begin to introduce the basics of phonics. We spend time reviewing past topics as well, to ensure that the children can recall the information they have already mastered. Towards the end of the year, we will begin to introduce the basics of phonics.

Partnering with parents to continue the learning environment at home is important to us! It helps to enrich the child’s learning experience. There is a calendar of the week that will be emailed on Friday’s for the upcoming week. This keeps parents up to date with what’s happening in the four’s weekly. We encourage you to be involved with our weekly curriculum and helping your child find and bring in the requested item of the day.

As an incentive for positive behavior we play a visual class game! As a group the children are filling a bucket with coins. When a teacher observes a child using helpful hands, kind choices and following instructions they will give them a coin to add to the class bucket. When the bucket is full the class will give the class will vote on a special event such as pajama day, silly sock day, crazy hair day, etc. Every child also has a behavior folder in the top of their cubby. This is a stop light system that lets you know the tone of their day. Green light means a great day, yellow light means they had some warnings, red light means the same behaviors that earned a yellow light continued. Each day when you pick up your child we ask that you are excited to see how full your child’s party pocket is! When checking their behavior folder we ask for your partnership in addressing the behavior that may have changed the light from green.

Outdoor play is important at this age, and we strive to go outside as much as the weather permits. Our friends are able to slide, ride bikes, play ball, swing, run, jump, and play. When weather does not permit, we will set up inside exercise stations or play games in the classroom.

As part of their development process, your child will be assessed for expectations and developmental milestones appropriate for their age group. Keep in mind that each child is unique and will develop in his/her own time frame.

Love,

The Pre-K Four Teachers