



# SP4K- EARLY LEARNING

Sun Prairie Area School District

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Hello 4K Families,

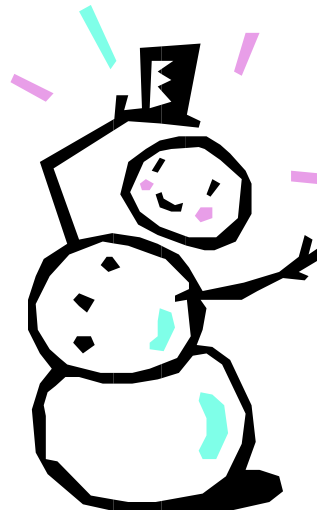
It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the halfway point in our year together. The time has flown by and your children have grown and learned so much. It has been so much fun to watch them grow into learners, explorers, friends and independent thinkers!

As the weather turns colder please remember to dress your kiddos for the colder weather. They will have opportunities to play outside and teachers add in practice time for putting on snow pants, zipping coats, hats and mittens. It takes a bit longer but the more independent they are with these skills the longer they have to play outside. (and it is a must for kindergarten!) Be sure to label all your gear with your child's name! There are lots of black snow pants that get mixed together. This is also a great time to double check backpacks for that extra set of clothes and switch them to warmer clothes- especially extra socks! Learning is tough in wet, cold clothes!

The success of our programs would not be possible without the support of our families. I want to thank you all for sharing your children with us. Together we are preparing these young students to be great learners.

I wish you all the very best this Holiday Season! Take time out during the rush and chaos to enjoy your little people! The moments you spend playing in the snow- building snow forts, decorating cookies, playing games and reading books will be memories to last a lifetime.

Cheers,  
Elizabeth Knudten  
SP4K Program Supervisor



## **REMINDERS:**

- **WINTER BREAK:**  
December 23-  
January 6

- **THURSDAY'S ARE  
EARLY RELEASE**  
11:55-1:30

**ABSENCES:** Please  
call your site to  
report all student  
absences

- **BUSING:**  
Please be prepared  
to meet your bus  
15 minutes prior to  
your assigned pick  
up or drop off time



# Games in the 4K class

Games are a valuable, fun and interesting way of helping children to work together and to raise the level of co-operative consciousness within the class. Games which enable children to work together in a caring and co-operative way, to include all children, develop both coordination and problem solving skills and help children to work together as a social unit. Games involve children at three levels: at a physical level, at an emotional level and at a cognitive level. Games range from active games that require space for movement to quieter games and activities that can be used in the class room. Games are fun, appealing, and motivating to students of all ages and backgrounds.

## Games support the curriculum:

- Word games and matching and memory games foster language development and literacy.
- Board games improve counting skills and spatial awareness and develop strategic thinking for improving skills in mathematics.
- All games provide lessons in taking turns, understanding how to win and lose, and fitting in with others for social and emotional development.
- Games provide a forum for initiative and leadership, reasoning, and problem-solving.
- Different types of games develop small and large motor skills and hand/eye coordination.

Challenging and strategic games help children learn to focus and concentrate, which are essential ingredients in developing creative thought.

Group games are excellent tools to help children learn to take turns, work in teams, and follow rules and direction. These games can break the ice for a new group of students, make transition times more productive and less chaotic, and are excellent outdoor substitutes for rainy or cold days. Language learning is a hard task which can sometimes be frustrating. Constant effort is required to understand, produce and manipulate language. Well-chosen games are

invaluable as they encourage students to practice language skills. Games are highly motivating since they are amusing and at the same time challenging. Furthermore, they employ meaningful and useful language in real contexts. They also encourage and increase cooperation.

## BENEFITS OF PLAYING GAMES:

### Language:

- encourages creative and spontaneous use of language
- promotes communicative competence
- focuses on communication
- motivates
- fun

### Cognitive:

- reinforces skills being taught
- critical thinking
- reinforce early math concepts
- reviews and extends knowledge base
- integration of learning objectives

### Class Dynamics:

- student centered
- teacher acts only as facilitator
- builds class cohesion
- fosters whole class participation
- promotes healthy competition

### Adaptability:

- easily adjusted for age, level, and interests
- utilizes all four skills
- requires minimum preparation after development



## LINKS TO GREAT PRESCHOOL GAMES:

(not a sales pitch just a few ideas!)

<https://www.weareteachers.com/best-board-games-for-preschoolers/>  
<https://happyyouhappyfamily.com/preschool-board-games/>

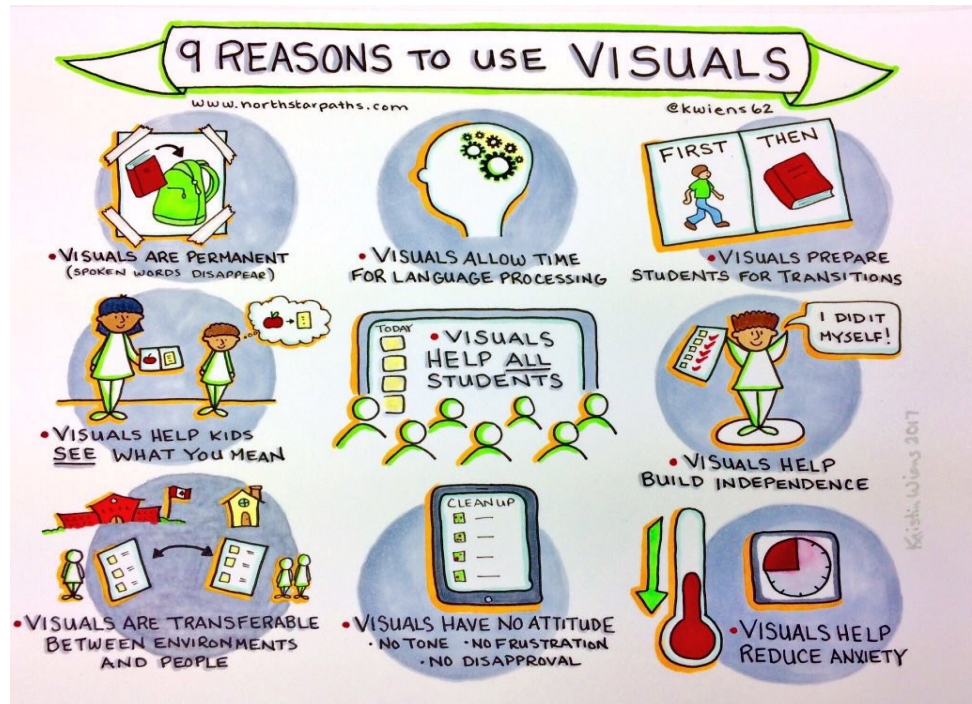
# We all use visuals, especially in the classroom

## You may not even realize all the places you use visuals:

- Do you have a calendar that you write things on to help you organize?
- Do you have a list of “things to do” on your desk or refrigerator?
- Have you ever pointed to a picture in an advertisement or a menu to show someone what you want?
- Do you make up a shopping list before you go to the store?
- Do you follow traffic signs on the way to work?

## Children use visuals in the classroom to help them:

- Follow Rules
- Understand what they are supposed to do
- Understand how to complete their work or play activities and tell someone they are finished
- Move from one activity to another
- Make choices about what they want to do



## UPDATE FROM KOBUSSEN BUS

### Stopping for Flashing Red Lights

Please remember, drivers must stop on the street or highway 20 feet or more from any school bus that has stopped and is flashing red warning lights.

- This applies both to vehicles approaching from the rear and from the opposing lanes.
- All lanes of traffic must stop for the school bus, except in opposing lanes if the highway is divided with a center median.
- No vehicle may proceed until the bus resumes motion and has turned off the red warning lights.
- The stop arm on the bus is an added communication to other drivers, but the lack of an extended stop arm is not reason to pass a bus whose red lights are flashing.

For more school bus and student transportation safety tips, click [here](#).

### Lost and Found

Kobussen has a lost and found for all items left on the bus. The driver will keep the lost item on the bus for a few days, then turn it in at the terminal. If your child has a lost item don't forget to check with Kobussen. Feel free stop by the terminal at 1500 Forward Drive, Sun Prairie to check the lost and found.

# Have you met Milo? (or heard his name?)

The Sun Prairie 4K program is excited to implement a new phonics curriculum this year! The curriculum splits our year into two units of study: The Name Study and The Letter Study. Both units focus on developing phonics and handwriting skills while also supporting social emotional growth in the classroom. To help us implement this curriculum we have a 4K mascot, Milo the dog! Milo helps us teach phonics and handwriting in an exciting way. He models the lessons and skills for us and can be involved in our classroom in many different ways. Milo has phonic siblings too! Mabel, the elephant is in Kindergarten, Rasheed, the lion in first grade, and August, the dragon in second grade.



## The Name Study

Our year began with the name study. In this unit we studied each of our classmates names, including Milo, in fun, interactive ways. This study is our 4Kers first introduction to letters in 4K. During this time learners will:

- Recognize their name (uppercase letters only)
- Learn the names of our classmates and begin to recognize them
- Understand that our names are made up of letters and the sounds those letters make
- Begin to write names and letters
- Develop beginning handwriting skills such as grasp
- Begin to include literacy in our play



# The Letter Study

Now that we've studied all of our friends names, begun to understand the purpose of letters and practiced our beginning handwriting skills we are ready for our letter study. In this unit we will study every letter in depth using hands-on activities. During this time students will:

- Study one letter weekly in depth (formation, sound and role in print) while still working and exploring with other letters and early literacy skills.
- Learn the formation pathways for writing letters - especially the letters in our names
- Practice beginning sounds in fun, interactive ways
- Participate in hands-on learning opportunities to support the letter study.

## How Can I Support Learning at Home?

Talking to your child about school is a great way to reinforce what they are learning. During the our phonics program some great questions are:

- Did you meet any new friends today?
- Who was the star name today?
- What did Milo do in school today?
- Who did you play with today?
- What letter did you learn about in the name study today?
- What letter are you studying this week?
- What letters do you see on \_\_\_\_? (signs, food items, labels, etc.)
- What did you feed Mr. Munch this week?
- What did Milo do this week?





PLAY GIVES  
CHILDREN  
A CHANCE  
TO PRACTICE WHAT  
THEY ARE  
LEARNING.  
-MR. ROGERS

## WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

The best place is to always start with your child's teacher. They have close contact with your child and have a deep understanding of their program and can most quickly address any of your concerns.

The next step is to contact your 4K site director. They have a wealth of knowledge and can answer questions about the many site specific policies and procedures.

You can also contact the 4K Program Supervisor to answer questions from a 4K- Sun Prairie School district perspective and help you navigate the school district in general.

### Sun Prairie Area School District

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