



August 31, 2009

Dear Parent(s),

What a wonderful first full week of school your child had in preschool. Your child was very excited to play in his/her classroom, make new friends, and learn new concepts. It was great to watch your child explore and discover many different things in the classroom.

We explored and discovered new concepts in our learning environments. Your child was excited to share special things about themselves. It was great to watch your child share his/her "All About Me" homework bag. Your child had fun sharing with his/her class what was in the bag that was special. As we explored the concept of "Special Me," we practiced learning the names of our classmates, focused on what is special about each child, and focused on being safe in school.

We are fortunate to have a SmartBoard in our classroom. A SmartBoard is an interactive whiteboard which connects to the computer. It is a touch screen whiteboard which allows children to draw and move objects around right on the whiteboard. Throughout the year, we will be using the SmartBoard to enhance ideas we are learning about in the classroom.

Sharing will begin this week. Sharing will occur every week. Sharing will be related to the theme we are focusing on for the week. This week, sharing will be connected to the letter "A." If your child wishes to share something at school, please help him/her find something in your house that starts with the letter "A." Please send this item to school with your child in his/her backpack so it can be shared at school. This helps your child become more aware of the sounds of language and helps form a foundation for later learning. When your child arrives at school, he/she will take the sharing item out of his/her backpack and bring it to the circle area.

Some special notes:

- **If your child rides the bus to school on a regular basis and there is a day when your child is not going on the bus you need to call transportation at 338-0078 to let them know your child will not be on the bus. This is for days when your child is sick or other days he/she will not be riding the bus. Thank you for your cooperation.**
- **If your child is going to be absent, please call the front office at 892-7735 to let us know your child will not be at school.**
- **If you drop off and pick up your child on a daily basis, please make sure you have signed for your "I am a Star" badge. You sign for the badge in the office. This badge needs to be worn while you are on campus. This is for the safety of the children at Shining Stars. If your badge can't be seen, staff members will ask you if you have your badge. This badge lets us know who is on campus and is a safety measure. Thank you for your help and support on this important matter.**

This week we are going to begin our journey of investigation through the alphabet. We will start our week-long, integrated, theme investigation of Apples in connection with the letter "A." The letter A is the starting point for our integrated curricular lessons, and many concepts will be explored this week. We will focus on learning other letters within this week, but our starting point will be the letter A and the sound "A" makes. We will look at the different colors and kinds of apples as well as how apples grow and what is inside an apple.

Some of the activities for the week are as follows:

- Each child will draw an apple and add a picture of what is inside.
- Each child will paint a picture of an apple.
- We will read the book, "Ten Apples Up On Top," and each child will do a project related to that book. (Ten Apples Up On Top is written by Dr. Seuss)
- Each child will color apples in an apple tree and count them.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to a great week with your child.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hughes