

# First Steps

Monthly Newsletter  
September 2022

*Pat Blakely, Editor*

First Steps Early Childhood Education Center  
233 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY 679-6301

## First Friends

Each month the front page will be dedicated to our "First Friends" and will feature artwork & pictures or thoughts & ideas from all the children at First Steps. Look for this feature beginning in October!



**I Am A Child**



**I AM NOT BUILT TO SIT STILL.**

keep my hands to myself,  
take turns, stand in line, be patient,



or keep quiet.



**I need motion, I need novelty**  
**I need adventure,**  
**and I need to engage the**  
**WORLD WITH MY WHOLE BODY**



**LET ME PLAY**



Trust me, I am learning!

## First Steps News

First Steps welcomes you to another exciting year together. Miss Michele, Miss April, Miss Kathy & Miss Heather have been busy planning the many different activities that the children will participate in throughout the Fall season. We are grateful for the return of our Assistant Teachers: Miss Brandi, Miss Ashley, Miss Amanda and Miss Alex. I'm sure you will find that their knowledge of early childhood development, compassion, patience, and love for children evident as we all learn and grow with your children.

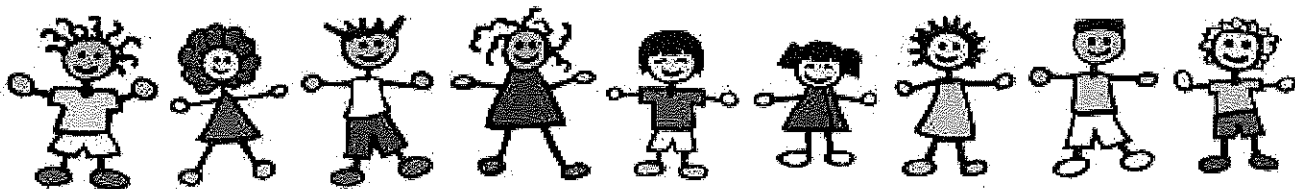
It is with a warm heart that we welcome back our returning students and families and look forward to getting to know all our new students and their families. I have had the pleasure of speaking with many parents via phone conversations and am truly looking forward to enjoying the time I spend with your children. I look forward to a year of learning, growing, sharing and caring together. Please feel free or call to discuss a concern, ask a question or just say hello. Some points of interest:

- The First Steps Board of Directors holds monthly administrative meetings. The Board is active and supportive of our program. Should you wish to be in contact with them to address any of your questions, comments, or concerns, you may contact Board President Mrs. Karyn Hochman c/o 233 Tinker Street, Woodstock Ny 12498.
- Your child's safety is our utmost concern. **Please drive SLOW! Other than drop off and pick up-**We ask that you **park rear-facing** in the large parking lot behind the building. Please do not drive through the barriers, or park alongside the road by the playground.
- Sneakers are the preferred footwear for our active children. Please **DO NOT** send your child to school with sandals, flip-flops, Crocs, or slippers.
- Children's personal items should be clearly labeled with their name, including their lunch bags/boxes. Children should come to school in play clothes since they will be spending much of their day on the floor, enjoying messy activities, and playing in our wonderful play yard. During these weather transition months, layering clothing is a good idea. We ask that you provide a large canvas bag or backpack for your child to gather their belongings at the end of the day.
- Each child has a well-marked cubby in the hall. Plastic containers with lids have been provided for extra changes of clothes etc. On the first day of school, please be sure to pack two changes of clothes, and at least two extra masks for your child.
- Sunscreen should be applied prior to arrival at school.
- Fire drills are conducted on a monthly basis.
- **Medical forms must be updated on a yearly basis**, we will notify you one month prior to due date of the new form.
- Monthly tuition payments are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

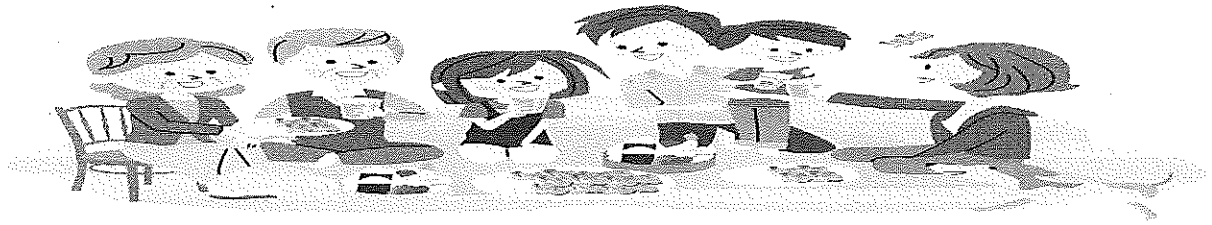


**Kimberly Johnson**

“Children can be likened to both sponges & mirrors...in that they absorb a great deal from their environment and reflect back the behaviors of the adults in their lives.”



# FIRST STEPS FAMILY PICNIC



Thursday Sept 22. 2022

4:30-6:00

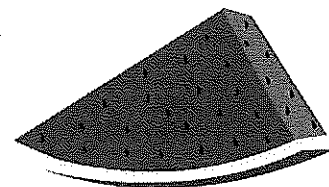
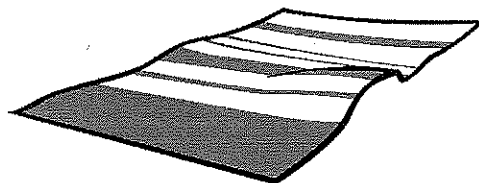
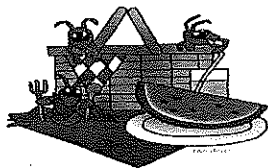
@ First steps

Raindate Sept29.2022

Same time and place

Bring a meal & blanket!

We will supply desert!



# WELCOME!

## Ready, Set...

How can you help your child off to a great start? Here are a few tips...

- Early Bedtime to ensure a good night's rest a a happy morning.
- A healthy breakfast.
- Comfortable clothes with elastic waists to make bathrooming hassle free.
- Sneakers and socks.
- Lunch Bags and containers that are easy to open and pack up after lunch time.
- Be sure to label all of their belongings.

...GO!

# SOCKS AND SNEAKERS

Those flip-flops are adorable  
Your sandals are so cute.  
And you look so very stylish  
In your clogs and cowboy boots.



But when you're on the playground,  
Where there's dirt and mulch and rocks,  
The safest things for you to wear  
Are Sneakers and some socks!

The mulch can scratch your ankles.  
The rocks can stub your toes.  
You might take a tumble  
And bop your little nose!



Your teachers want to keep you safe.  
We think you are very sweet.  
So please wear socks and sneakers  
To protect your little feet!

Welcome  
Back!



School Days!

## TELL ME WHAT YOU DID TODAY



When children come home at the end of the day,  
The question they're asked as they scurry to play  
Is "Tell me what you did today?"  
And the answer they give makes you sigh with dismay.  
"Nothing, I did nothing today."  
Perhaps "nothing" means that I played with blocks,  
Or counted to ten or sorted some rocks.  
Maybe I painted a picture of red and blue,  
Or heard a story of a mouse that flew.  
Maybe I watched the gerbils eat today  
Or went outside on the swings to play.  
Maybe today was the first time  
That my scissors followed a straight line.  
Maybe I lead a song from beginning to end,  
Or played with a brand-new friend.  
When you're in Preschool and your heart has wings  
"Nothing" can mean so many things



"Unknown"

Happy  
Birthday!



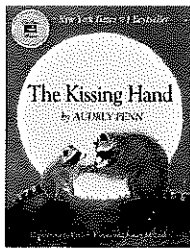
**Dates to Remember:**

- Sept 15<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Tuition Due
- Sept 22: Family Picnic
- Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>: UPK Closed
- Sept 29<sup>th</sup>: Rain date Family Picnic
- Oct 5<sup>th</sup>: UPK Closed

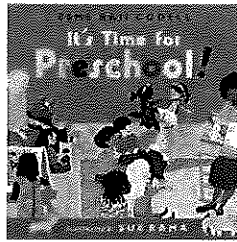
**Notice to Preschool Parents:**

First Steps opens at 8:00 am and closes at 5:00 pm. Please be respectful of the staff's time as they have much to do before the children arrive. Lunch and snacks will be served as described in your handbook. We do celebrate birthdays and encourage you to plan a special snack your child might like to bring in to share with school friends. (Healthy treats are appreciated!) *Thank you!*

**Books you may enjoy...together!**



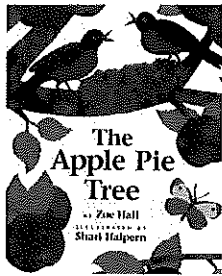
"The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn



"It's Time for Preschool" by Esme Raji Codell

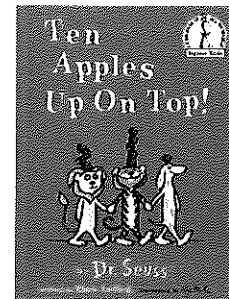


"I Like Me" by Nancy Carlson



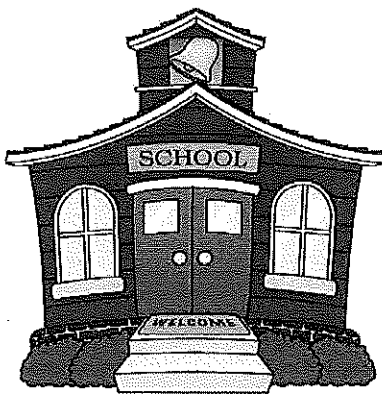
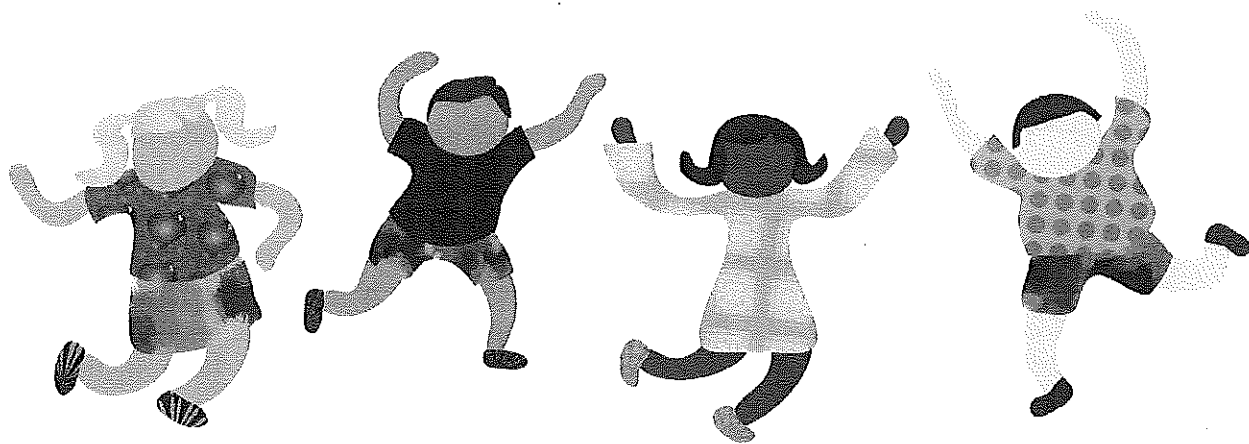
"The Apple Pie Tree" by Zoe Hall

Check out books from our First Steps Lending Library - across the hall from the red, information table!



"Ten Apples Up On Top!" by Dr. Seuss

WELCOME FRIENDS TO THE  
FIRST STEPS FAMILY!



HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!