

Children's House Supply List and Topics

Clothing Needs:

At the All School Registration on September 5th, each child should bring a complete set of extra clothes (underwear, socks, slippers, shorts, t-shirt) in a labeled, plastic shoe box to be kept at school. The shorts and t-shirt will be sent home in the fall to be replaced by long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Most parents want their children to remain dressed in the clothing in which they are sent to school.

We will allow and advise children to take off or add a sweater/sweatshirt based on weather changes. However, we will not force children to remove or add clothing. We will offer assistance when needed to help children change clothes when they are soiled, wet or uncomfortable.

In unusual situations, when the weather becomes abruptly very hot or cold and a child is not appropriately dressed, we will first check the extra clothes box. If no appropriate clothes are available we will either allow the child to borrow extra clothes (when available) or call and request a change of clothes. Most parents are concerned when children either lose clothing or come home in another child's clothing. We therefore try to avoid changing children's clothing except for the reasons described above.

Please label all of your child's clothing and belongings, so if an article of clothing is removed, it will get back on/to the right child. We advise our staff to change children's clothes only when necessary and with another staff person present. If children need more privacy, they are directed to use the bathroom with the door open. We encourage our students to change their own clothes and work on dressing skills and independence. **Please allow your child to dress him/herself at home and verbally encourage and direct him/her. Independence is a gift you can't buy for your children, but must help them to acquire for themselves.**

Toys:

Please keep toys at home! Toys may cause great stress and, frequently, tears, as ownership is paramount and sharing is sometimes impossible. We have enough toys, games, and manipulatives to keep children stimulated and content. Many toys are too personal to share, so please keep them at home or in the car where they will be safe.

Photos:

September only! All children should bring a photo of themselves to the Open House on September 3rd. (This is in addition to the photo requested by the Office for your child's file.) The photos will be put on each child's cubby door. This will facilitate finding the cubby and offer much enjoyment to the children!

Observation Time:

You may observe in your child's classroom at any time and without an appointment. If possible we ask you to follow certain guidelines.

During the first four (4) weeks of your child's time at school, we suggest you refrain from visiting your child's classroom to facilitate a healthy separation. However, if you feel the need to visit during this time you are free to do so.

We have an "open door" policy for all parents. You are welcome and encouraged to set up time to observe your child in the classroom. We ask that you please call to schedule your visit when possible in order to keep the number of adults in the room at one time to a comfortable number. Visits should be planned for at least one hour. Stopping by to "say hi" for a few minutes can be a distraction for your child and others, and we would strongly encourage parents to visit for a longer block of time for meaningful observation time.

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Snacks & Lunch:

PEANUT ALERT: *It appears that more and more children are allergic to peanut products. Although we cannot tell you what to feed your child, we respectfully suggest that you talk to your child about NOT SHARING any food items, especially peanut products, with his/her friend just in case! When sending in snacks or birthday goodies, please avoid any use of peanut products (including peanut oil) to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our students.*

Snack: Each Children's House family is asked to provide a healthy snack for the whole class twice a year. You will be receiving a letter and schedule from your child's teacher at the start of the school year.

All children remaining past 12:00PM should bring in a healthy lunch to eat with the group. Lunchtime is a fun, social, learning experience. Lunch should be in a lunch box which includes several healthy food choices along with a healthy drink. **Please do not send in paper bags or glass bottles—ideally, use recyclable, plastic containers.** Pop-top tins are difficult to open—please put food in a container which can be easily opened. Try to pack food in containers which can be used again (plastic containers or thermos for leftovers like pasta, etc.). Most children like to be involved and tend to eat more lunch if they have something to do with the planning and packaging. Again, please label lunch box and all containers!

We do not force children to eat, but rather encourage them. Please send foods that your child likes and can eat in a reasonable amount of time, about 20 minutes. Instead of using paper napkins, we ask you to send in a cloth napkin.

