

Little Panthers Preschool Newsletter

We are the "first step" of District OR-1 Public

Welcome to Preschool!

Our first day is almost here, we have met at our home visits, and you have had the opportunity to check out the preschool building at our Open House. Your child is probably excited and maybe a little nervous. You may be wondering how it is possible that you have a child old enough to go to preschool if your oldest is coming, or just how is it possible that summer is over. If you are really honest with yourself you may be more nervous than your child if this is a new experience for your family.

Those of you "experienced" preschool parents that are sending your child back for the second year or have sent an older sibling before are probably hearing lots of chatter about what center your child misses and what friends will still be there this year.

It is an exciting time in your child's life either way and one that can bring with it lots of changes for the whole family. Your morning or afternoon routine changes, your day care arrangements may have changed, and you will suddenly see your child's world expanding to include lots of talk about other kids, teachers, activities and more. Get ready...your child is about to embark on an exciting adventure!

NO PARKING Zone

We have a new yellow striped NO PARKING zone marked off right in front of the preschool door. ***This area is for bus loading and unloading only and never for vehicle parking.*** With our close proximity to the parking lot we need this safety zone to be kept free so everyone can see the parents and children coming and going from the preschool. Thank you for helping us keep our kids safe!

Remember the Extra Clothes

Please remember to keep a complete change of clothes in your child's book bag at all times. Socks, shorts/pants, shirt and underpants are needed "just in case"! Perhaps your child has not had an accident for a long time, even that child can get busy playing and not make it in time.

If we need to help your child change clothes you will find the wet clothes in a baggie in your child's book bag that day.

We handle any accidents very calmly. No one is ever made to feel bad about an accident and if your child does have one please remember that here at preschool it is not uncommon and not anything we get upset about.

Tuesdays!

Tuesdays are special days at preschool. We include a note on your monthly calendar giving you a "WEAR_____" or a "BRING_____" idea for each Tuesday. It may be "Wear Red" or in the case of this first week it is "Bring Just 1 Stuffed Animal" These are not requirements and if you forget it is OK. We just use that day to focus on something, give the children a chance to show or talk about what they wore or brought and practice some skills at the same time.

There may be additional requests on your monthly calendars on different days, but you can always count on Tuesday for some special note!

Sunshine and Sunscreen

Our outdoor classroom is a big part of what we do each day. We don't treat our outdoor area as just a playground; we extend our lessons and activities outside as much as we can. With that in mind if you prefer that your child wear sunscreen we ask that you apply it BEFORE your child comes to preschool. We do not have time to put sunscreen on 12 children and we also cannot be responsible for products and possible allergies. **So remember to please apply sunscreen prior to arrival at preschool if you want your child to wear it, we will be outside a lot!**
Thanks!

Mealtime Routines

Our meals are all served family style, your child will be encouraged to try things, but no child will ever be made to eat something he/she does not like. The meals are served right after arrival each day, so remember not to make breakfast or lunch for your child on those days, he/she will be eating as soon as the session starts!

"Herding Chickens"

Last year while trying to organize the children for a group picture the comment was made that it was a lot like trying to "herd chickens". That is really a pretty good description of the first few weeks of preschool with a group of 3 and 4 year olds. With that in mind I would ask that you give us a couple of weeks to get those "chicks" used to our routines before you plan to come and visit class, it just takes a little while for things to settle in and for the children to get used to a new place, new teachers and new friends.

Please Stay Home!

What? What does she mean by that?

We are very vigilant about hand washing and maintaining a clean environment for your child here at Little Panthers. We use established disinfecting procedures on tables, sinks and so forth throughout the day. We stress covering mouths, using tissues, and always washing after the bathroom and before meals and snacks. BUT...kids get sick. At this age despite all our vigilance, kids put their fingers in their mouths and nose and touch things.... gross yes, but a fact of life.

When your child is coughing, has a goopy nose, had a fever or threw up during the night, or is sick in anyway PLEASE STAY HOME!

The very nature of our routine lends itself to lots of touching each other through games and play, touching the same toys and materials, and lots of close proximity to each other.

We will call you if your child does not feel well, isolate your child as best we can until you arrive, and then disinfect the rest mat we had your child on, but airborne germs will still expose other classmates.

Please help us! We ask that you be extra cautious with your child, if he/she arrives here and has to be sent back home the exposure to classmates has already occurred.

Please call us if your child is going to be absent for illness or any other reason, we must keep records of attendance for meal counts and our own records. I am here by no later than 7:15 each morning so call the preschool. Thanks so much for your help with this; we want to have as healthy a year as we possibly can!

Bus Riding

If your child is a bus rider and for some reason he/she will not be riding that day please let the bus driver know or call here and let us know. Our bus runs on a very tight schedule and stopping when it is not needed costs extra minutes.

If your child is getting on or getting off in Palmyra at the high school PLEASE be on time at 11:40. The bus cannot wait for your child past the indicated time because that makes all the other children late arriving for the afternoon session.

***The Bus Driver to call is
Cathy Fick @ 780-5636 or 540-2879***

Whew!

**That was a lot of reminders and information!
Remember to
ask if you have any questions about anything. We
want
your child's preschool year to be a wonderful
experience!**

Mrs. Cheney & Mrs. Poe

P.S. Our next "newsletter" will be full of preschool news about what we have been doing, not just lots of reminders like this one. Stay tuned!