



Children's House Guidelines 2025-26

Welcome

Welcome to another exciting year in Children's House! We are eagerly anticipating the start of a new school year and are happy your child will be joining us. The following are important items of information about our Children's House program:

Arrival

Arrival times are between 8:15 and 8:45 AM. Please enter the campus at the southwest driveway and pull-up along the white painted curb. Stay in your car; your child will be greeted at the curbside of the main entrance and escorted to their classroom. Please exit through the lower, graveled lot. Any arrivals after 8:45AM will be considered tardy, unless the office or Guide was previously notified.

Noon Dismissal / Car Line

Children and staff will be ready to meet you at the front entrance at 12:00 noon, if your child stays for half-days. Your child will be brought to the car and you will be responsible for buckling them into their car seat. For safety purposes, please exit through the gravel lot.

Daily Routines

- **Establishing and maintaining consistency is important for the young child.** A daily routine should include a healthy breakfast at home and a timely arrival at school. Between the ages of birth and six, your child has a strong need for order. Routine is essential to your child's well-being and peace of mind.
- **Children need at least 8 to 10 hours of sleep.** Consistent bedtimes will support the earlier schedule for school mornings and your child's concentration at school.
- **Setting limits will help your child feel safe and provide a framework for daily life.** Allow your child to do anything for themselves that they are able to or try to do. As the year progresses, you will be impressed with the independent skills your child acquires. Allow your child to take ownership of their accomplishments. Spend quality time with your child, and read to your child as often as possible.
- **Streamline dressing in the morning.** Invite your child to lay out the clothes of their choice the night before. Plan extra time for your child since they have a tendency to

move at their own pace. Planning ahead allows plenty of time for breakfast and a stress-free ride to school.

Classroom Agreements

Many of our classroom agreements can be reinforced at home.

- Be respectful of our space and everything in it.
- Use kind words, “Excuse me”, “Please”, “Thank you”, and “May I help you.”
- Be helpful to others.
- Try not to hurt others’ feelings, and invite a friend to have a peaceful conversation when needed.

Community Health

Each child’s health is a part of the community’s well being as a whole. Please use consideration regarding your child’s individual wellness and deciding whether or not to send them to school on a given day. **Please refer to the parent handbook for school policies** about sending a previously sick child back to school.

Clothing & What to Bring

Please send two (2) seasonally appropriate **changes of clothing** for your child, including underwear and socks, with your child’s name written on every piece of clothing. We recommend pants, shorts or leggings that are easy to put on and take off. Zippers, buttons, and snaps should be used only when children can manage these themselves. Please also send in a dedicated pair of “**indoor shoes.**” Refer to your child’s Guide regarding preferred style of shoe.

The following items are distracting to both the child wearing them and the other students, so please avoid them during the school day:

- Superhero logos (including TV characters and anything commercial) and sequins, etc. on your child’s clothing and belongings
- Backpack “toys” and “keychains”
- Toys from home
- Jewelry (OK only for pierced ears)

Children should be dressed in clothing that you won’t mind getting dirty. Our natural playscape requires **sneakers** for safe footing and climbing. Long pants for all children are necessary for our nature walks. Comfortable **rain boots** are also needed at school for creek walks and day-to-day mud.

Our natural playscape includes sunny spots and a rain garden that can attract insects. Please send your child in with **sunscreen** and **bug spray** that is labeled with their names. These will remain at school to be used through the appropriate seasons.

Send your child to school with an **appropriately-sized backpack**. Kindergarten children should bring their backpacks daily. Nappers will need to bring a **small blanket and pillow**.

When accidents happen, children will bring home their soiled clothing in their backpack. Please provide at least one labeled **wetbag** for transport.

Summary-

- Two seasonally appropriate, labeled, changes of clothing
- At least one reusable and washable wet bag for accidents
- Dedicated indoor shoes
- Rain boots for dedicated outside use
- Labeled sunscreen
- Labeled bug spray
- Any necessary nap gear
- Backpack, lunch box, water bottle (all labeled)

Lunch

If your child is staying for lunch, please provide a healthy lunch with an ice pack, if necessary. Lunches will be stored in children's cubbies. At home, encourage your children to prepare their own lunches from a selection of healthy choices so that they feel engaged in the process. Children's House does not offer microwaving at lunch time. We ask that if you would like your child to have a hot lunch, please use a small thermos made for this purpose. Children may eat directly from the thermos or can be assisted in transferring contents to a bowl or plate. Cloth napkins, silverware, glasses and dishes are available for the children to use at lunch, and are washed on a daily basis. Please send in a labeled water bottle with your child daily.

In an effort to "go green" we ask for your concerted help in packing your child's lunch in reusable containers. We are striving for a zero trash lunchtime. Plastic, reclosable bags will be sent back home, as will uneaten food that will not spoil/spill. The children will be encouraged to compost or recycle wherever possible. Please do not send candy in your child's lunch. A no-sharing policy is strongly enforced during lunch due to food allergies.

Supply List

Children's House families are requested to donate designated snack options and materials for the classroom two times during the year. These items will be used in activities related to independent food preparation in each classroom, which includes peeling and slicing apples, oranges, carrots and cucumbers, juicing, cheese and cracker work, etc. Guides will send out a snack list with required dates and parent names. You may drop off your snack supply at the front door the first day of the week in which you are assigned, and they will be delivered to the classroom.

Birthdays & Holidays

If you decide to celebrate your child's birthday with us at school, then parents/caregivers are invited to come in for a classroom visit. If your child's birthday occurs during the summer

months, we can celebrate your child's half birthday. A picture timeline of your child from birth to the current age will be made to hang in the classroom, so be prepared for a request of a 4"x6" photo of your child each year of their life. If you would like to donate a book to the classroom library in honor of your child's birthday, you are welcome to do so. Look for more information from your child's classroom Guide. Holidays such as Halloween and Valentine's Day are not celebrated with costumes, candy or an exchange of cards as these are not developmentally appropriate in Children's House. They are honored in other ways within the classroom.

Volunteering

Involvement of parents in classroom activities is often appreciated and recommended. Parents volunteer their time with children for a variety of events or traditions. Your child's classroom Guide will provide you with specific details.

Conferences

Conferences for all families occur each year in November and March. You will receive notice about making your appointment online. On scheduled conference days, school is closed. More information regarding child care will come from the office as conference time approaches.

Parent Communication

Parent communication is essential for the teamwork needed to best serve your child throughout the school year. Please email straightforward questions or information you feel it is important to communicate, and we will respond within 24 hours. If you have an urgent matter, please leave a message for your child's Guide with the office and it will be brought to our immediate attention. A written note can also be handed to a greeter in the morning car line. Any questions or concerns that require more than a one or two sentence response are best discussed in person, and we will be happy to meet or call at a mutually agreed upon time to have a conversation. Please email us with this request and we will set something up with you.

Suggested reading for Montessori Parents

- McFarland, Jim, and McFarland, Sonnie. *Montessori Parenting: Unveiling the Authentic Self*
- Tim Seldin. *How To Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way*
- Maren Schmidt, Dana Schmidt. *Understanding Montessori: A Guide for Parents*
- [Montessori For Families- American Montessori Society](#)
- [Family Resources- American Montessori International](#)

We thank you for all you do to support your child's school life!

- Erin Burke, Children's House Guide (eburke@themontessorischool.us)
- Caroline Jacobs, Children's House Guide (cjacobs@themontessorischool.us)
- Elena Janeczko, Children's House Guide (ejaneczko@themontessorischool.us)