

Dear Toddler Families,

We are into our third week of school and your toddlers have settled nicely into the routines of our classroom. They have been working hard on removing and putting on their indoor and outdoor shoes, dressing and undressing themselves and taking care of themselves and their environment. Your toddlers have been busy preparing snacks and lunches, making flower arrangements for our tables and caring for our plants. They have had grace and courtesy lessons on clearing their dishes from lunch, respecting their friends' work and learning to watch for desired work to become available.

Our job as adults is to provide children with experiences to help them help themselves. You can help your toddler at home with their work by having a hook for them to hang their backpack and coat as well as a spot for their shoes. A small chair in the bathroom or bedroom is helpful for them to practice dressing and undressing. At school we guide them in a way for them to gain self-confidence while developing their independence and should be given opportunities for experiences both in the home and school environments. In our busy lives, it can become easy for us to do their work for them.

Our first field trip is fast approaching. Next Tuesday we will have our field trip to Hartland Orchard. The children are invited to arrive at school during our normal arrival time. We will load the bus around 9 am, leave the school at 9:15 and will arrive at the orchard around 9:40. If you prefer, you are more than welcome to drive yourself and your child and meet us at the orchard. If you would like to ride the bus with your child, please drop your child off at the normal time and you will board the bus with your child at 9. Parents of toddlers riding the bus will need to secure their child's car seat on the bus at drop off. All children should have a lunch and a water bottle in their backpack and should wear appropriate clothing and shoes. We will pick apples and enjoy a picnic lunch together with some songs and poems we have been working on in class. We will leave the orchard around 11:15 in order to make it back for half day dismissal.

If you are looking for volunteer hours, I have paper towels that need to be cut and work mats to be washed. We also need plastic grocery bags and wipes for our classroom, if you have not already brought in a package of wipes, now would be a great time.

I am always looking for topics to share with your toddlers, please feel free to share with us anything such as a trip to the zoo or visiting Grandma's house.

As a reminder, your child should arrive to school in a pull-up or cloth pants. They are developing their independence and should have loose easy to pull on clothing with no buckles. Footwear should be easy for your toddler to manipulate. We guide them to put their toes in and either to push or pull the heel. This allows them to feel successful in their work building confidence and independence.

Here are a few pictures of your toddlers hard at work.

Mrs. Craft and I hope you have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing your toddlers Monday morning. Please feel free to email me with any questions.

Warm Wishes,

Debbi