

Family Engagement Policy

Family engagement during the earliest years of a child's life is one of the most powerful predictors of a child's development. Families are children's first teachers and it is the quality of parent-child relationships and interactions that create the foundational skills that children need to be successful in school and in life. Family engagement in early education is particularly important in that it helps create consistency between the home and school environments. The positive outcomes of engaged parents are powerful: increased support for children's learning at home, empowered parents, and improved family well-being. Children see benefits like improved cognitive development and academic performance, better social-emotional development, and improved health.

In addition to these known benefits, we also genuinely enjoy getting to know the families and guardians of our enrolled children. We believe in creating a safe and welcoming community, where families can be certain that their children are loved and well-cared for, and where we can all be a source of support for one another. We invite all families to engage with the classrooms and programs in various ways.

Families are invited to be Mystery Readers, whether in person or via Zoom/pre-recorded video. We also utilize a parent-survey based assessment system, ASQ-3, which helps us create a comprehensive idea of what each child needs in his or her individualized learning plan. Whenever possible, we invite families to volunteer in the classroom, preparing activities, or helping out with family engagement events, such as Breakfast with Buddies, Winter Festival, Trunk or Treat, door decoration contests, and more!

Furthermore, we strongly believe in regular communication. We use a daily reporting and messaging app, called Brightwheel, which helps us meet this communication goal. We also schedule classroom meet and greets in the fall, as well as two parent/teacher conferences per year (these may be in person, or over telephone/Zoom). We welcome any ideas for opportunities to encourage family engagement!

This fall, we are partnering with Brookdale Nursing Home, and inviting our families to work together to bring a smile to the residents of Brookdale. We are purchasing materials to create fall wreaths, and sending these kits home with each family. We will also invite families to create a card to bring to the seniors as well. On Halloween, Brookdale has invited our families to participate in a trick or treat event, outside of their facility, in a safe manner where they can practice social distancing. We will be delivering the wreaths at this time!



9/25/2020