

Dear Butterfly Parents,

We would like to welcome all children and families to the Butterfly Room at Appleseeds Day School. It has been exciting to get to know your children these past few weeks as they have come to visit each morning. We believe teaching begins with getting to know the individual needs of each child within the classroom setting, and also the needs of the family as a whole. We have attached a questionnaire that we would like each family to fill out to help us get to know your child, along with their families better. Our goal in the Butterfly Room is to build a positive, respectful relationship with each child and parent, that will help support their learning and development over the next year.

At Appleseeds, we use Creative Curriculum, which is an emergent curriculum that supports each child's growth and potential by assessing their development needs and meeting the learners where they are. We incorporate the children's interests into our academic program and seek to plan activities that are not only engaging, but meaningful in a child's life. We post a curriculum web for each month on the door right outside the classroom for families to view. If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please do not hesitate to ask at any time.

We would like to ask that your child keep his or her toys at home. Please honor this request. The only exception to this are objects that correspond with our monthly theme. We encourage your child to share educational treasures with the class (dinosaur fossils, a beehive, seashells, a bird's nest, etc.)

We would also like to note that books are *always* welcome in our classroom—books corresponding to our curriculum or other fun books that your child would like to share with the group. We cannot promise that we will be able to read the story that your child brings to school, however, they are more than welcome.

Please provide the appropriate outdoor clothing and shoes. We do go outside in all types of weather, so it is best if your child can be prepared with rain and snow gear. We would also appreciate it if your child could have some spare clothes along with undergarments and shoes in his or her cubby (tucked away in a bag). This extra set of clothes is not only in regards to toileting but also for centers, outdoors and/or art time. We try to use only washable materials in the classroom, and also have the children wear smocks during messy activities. While we take every precaution to keep your children's clothes clean, sometimes accidents do happen. Please keep this in mind when dressing your child for school in the morning.

After lunch each day, all students will be required to have rest time. You are welcome to bring in a blanket, small pillow and/or a stuff animal for your child to have during nap time, but please make sure that the size of these items are manageable for your child to get out and put back into their cubby on their own.

Appleseeds is a nut-free school. Please make sure that you don't pack anything that contains nuts or anything that is manufactured in a plant with nuts. If your child consumes any peanut products before school, make sure that they have thoroughly washed their hands before they come into the school. We would also appreciate if you keep candy at home and not bring it to school; they will not be able to eat it with their lunches.

In the Butterfly Room, we do not have a bathroom inside our classroom, so for the first few weeks, it may be difficult for students to adjust to this change. We will remind children at certain points during our day to try to use the bathroom; however, our goal is for the children to use the bathroom independently, as they grow more use to the classroom. Children must be accompanied to the bathroom up until the age of four.

On occasion, we have Shelby, a 12 year old black lab dog, visit our classroom. She has been a valuable asset to our classroom for four years. Students can learn important lessons from a dog. Everything from overcoming fears to patience and perseverance, from speech and interaction to listening and following directions. Brushing Shelby, taking her for walks, and playing fetch all help to develop gross motor skills and reduce stress in the classroom. If you have any concerns about Shelby visiting the classroom, please let us know and we can address them.

Please remember to sign your child in and out each day. If you are planning to have someone pick up your child that is not listed on your emergency form, please leave a written note and let the person know they will have to present ID. We would also appreciate it if you could call the Butterfly Room on any days that your child will be absent.

In your welcome packet, you will find three separate permission slips: Churchill's, Planet Playground, a photo release form (to be able to use your child's photo in academic use in the classroom and outside the classroom for presentations) as well as dismissal notes. We would appreciate that all permission slips be signed and returned to us and the notes be used to assist us when your child may be leaving early, absent, or picked up by another person.

We are very excited to start the school year! We will have plenty of hands-on learning experiences that will get your pre-schooler excited about their new classroom. If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please let us know. You are always welcome to check in during the day, write us a note, or schedule a meeting.

Thanks,
Miss Jenn & Miss Paula
Butterfly Room- Preschool 3
Phone: 603 772 9995 ext.7