

FLOURISH NATURE SCHOOL FAMILY HANDBOOK

2023-2024



Location:

Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center
822 Route 519
Johnsonburg, NJ 07825
(Frelinghuysen Township)

Phone number:

973-271-6725

Email:

jen@johnsonburg.org

Preschool Director:

Jen Lewin

Ages:

3 to 5.

Important Information:

Please read this handbook thoroughly!
Most of your questions will be answered here.



FLOURISH

[VERB]

(of a person, animal, or other living organism)
to grow or develop in a healthy
or vigorous way, especially as
the result of a particularly
favorable environment.

WHY CHOOSE FLOURISH NATURE SCHOOL?

At Flourish Nature School, we believe in cultivating a nurturing environment where children flourish in harmony with the wisdom of nature. This is our wish for teachers, families, and administrators, as well. We are committed to offering a holistic and empowering educational experience that nourishes the mind, body and soul. It is our mission to empower young minds to grow, thrive, and begin to discover their innate potential while forging a deep bond with nature gifts.

OUR LOCATION AT CAMP JOHNSONBURG

Flourish Nature School is located on the beautiful 300 acre property of Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center -- a non-profit Christian camp and retreat center established over 60 years ago. Camp Johnsonburg offers overnight summer camp for ages 6 to 17, retreat and venue rentals, family fun days, and events for all ages. Flourish Nature School was a vision of the board of trustees and is the newest addition to the Johnsonburg community and we cannot wait to watch it grow and **thrive!**

OUR CLASSROOMS

Nature is our classroom! However, Flourish Nature School has 2 beautiful and inviting classroom locations designed specifically for the school.

The Outdoor Classroom:

Located in Upper Meadow (next to the Butterfly Garden)

The Indoor Classroom:

Located in the Recreation Center (Rec Center)

We will be spending up to 90% of our time outside. You will also find us in the Butterfly Garden, picnicking, hiking a nature trail, swinging, observing the lake, jumping in puddles, running, climbing, and playing across Johnsonburg's bountiful campus. We will be on rocky terrain, uneven ground, balancing on logs, getting dirty and navigating the fun obstacles nature gives us to help us learn and grow.

CORE VALUES

Nature Immersion and Stewardship: Flourish Nature School is a nature-based early childhood education program that immerses children in the wonders of the natural world. Nature is our vibrant classroom where children explore, question, and discover. It is a valued partner in our journey, teaching us the importance of caring for and protecting our environment. Our commitment to nature is not only educational but also ecological, instilling in children a deep sense of love, respect and responsibility for the world around them.

Holistic Child Development: Our educational philosophy revolves around developing the whole child. Beyond academics, we emphasize the development of emotional intelligence, social skills, creativity, and physical well-being. We believe that by nurturing every aspect of a child's growth, as we partner with our families in shaping well-rounded individuals who are academically prepared, creative, emotionally resilient and socially conscious.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive and diverse community. Our commitment to equity is reflected in our governance, program enrollment, and instructional practices. We celebrate the uniqueness of every child, family, and staff member, creating an environment where all feel welcome, valued, and respected.

Inquiry-Based Learning: Our curriculum is structured around inquiry-based learning, allowing children to be active participants in their educational journey. We encourage questions, curiosity, and exploration of one's interests and surroundings. We PLAY! We EXPLORE! We empower our children to become lifelong learners who are unafraid to tackle new challenges and ask the big questions.

Outdoor Classroom and Place-Based Learning: Our outdoor classroom is at the heart of our educational approach. Nature is not just a setting; it's our primary learning environment. We believe in place-based learning, where children connect with their surroundings, fostering a deep sense of belonging and stewardship. Together, we are building an appreciation of the interconnectedness of all life and truly learning what it means to flourish.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

9:00-9:05 - Arrival

9:00-9:30 - Settle In + Morning Centers

9:30-9:35 - Clean Up

9:35-9:45 - Bathroom + Transition Outdoors

9:45-10:00 - Circle Time

10:00-10:30 - Outdoor Play/Activities

10:30-10:45 - Snack

10:45-12:00 - Outdoor Play/Activities

12:00-12:10 - Bathroom

12:10-12:45 - Lunch

12:45-1:00 - Pack up Dismissal

CURRICULUM

At Flourish Nature School, **The Wonder Garden** curriculum serves as the framework for our daily planning as it beautifully aligns to our mission of teaching to the whole child. To remain in alignment with our core values, our educators keep an emergent curriculum mindset. This means that the children's interests, needs and play will lead the majority of our day and "plans" can (and will!) change at any given moment.

While Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center is a faith-based organization, Flourish does not weave religion or any singular faith into our curriculum to remain inclusive. Our focus remains on the connection between child and nature, as well as the development of the whole child.

OUR PILOT PROGRAM

Flourish Nature School is a brand-new preK program for the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited to offer our pilot program in the fall, while we work out the details for our grand-opening in January.

Pilot program dates:

Week of November 7th-Week of December 14th.

2 day program - **Tuesdays/Thursdays- 9 AM to 1 PM**

1 day program - **Wednesdays - 9 AM to 1 PM**

Students may join all 3 days, with availability.

We hope you join us in 2024! Stay tuned for more details and offerings!

INCLUSION + REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In alignment with Camp Johnsonburg's mission, **all are welcome here.** Our program is open to all children and admission opportunities are equally extended to all interested families.

Fostering an inclusive environment at Flourish is of utmost importance and we strive to serve a wide range of children. Our educators implement developmentally appropriate practices and consider the unique needs and interests of each child while planning activities and as each school day unfolds.

Due to safety and limited staffing, we are requiring that children are fully potty trained and can independently use the restroom prior to enrollment. Children also must possess basic safety awareness. We cannot offer one-on-one assistance. Students requiring more attention than the **prescribed student-teacher ratio (1:6)** must be accompanied by a parent-provided professional Therapeutic Staff Support at all times. Please contact Flourish Nature School if your child has any type of special needs or requires a TSS to ensure our school is the best fit.

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT

We are currently serving preK 3 and preK 4 students in a combined classroom setting, ages 3-5.

Registration for our pilot program opens on October 31st.

To register your child for Flourish's Pilot PreK Program, complete our online registration and please give yourself time to fill out all the required forms which are listed in the section below.

Registration Instructions:

- Visit www.campjburg.org
- Click on "Register Now!" at the top of the page
- Create a new user account
- Start a New Application under "Youth Programming 2023"
- Fill out required forms

Select how you would like to pay.

Complete the registration form as soon as possible to ensure your child's space in the program. If the classes are full, you will be prompted to add your child to the waitlist.

A waiting list will be maintained throughout the year, and admissions from the list will follow a first-come, first-served basis. Parents will be notified via email and phone call if a position becomes available.

REQUIRED FORMS

Below are the required forms on the Johnsonburg Website Registration:

- Participant Information Form/Application
- Media Waiver
- Liability Waiver
- Johnsonburg Health Form
- Covid Form

TUITION AND PAYMENT

For our pilot preK program, tuition is \$45/day.

Our commitment to offering your child an exceptional learning experience has led us to carefully determine our preschool tuition rates. We conducted in-depth research on local and tri-state area traditional and nature preschool tuition rates. An important factor in our consideration was our status as a non-state-funded program. Taking into account our unique environment and enriched curriculum, we are pleased to offer our current rate at \$45/day. This rate situates us within the median range of preschool tuition rates, reflecting our dedication to providing your child with an outstanding educational journey.

If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact our director, Jen Lewin at jen@johnsonburg.org to see if we have any assistance options available for your family.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Beginning Jan 2024, should you decide to withdraw your child for any reason, we kindly request a one-month written notice. If the withdrawal occurs any time after the first of the month, full payment for that month is required and your credit card on file will be charged.

As of October 2023, we apologize, but we cannot offer refunds at anytime, for any reason, this includes the 6 week pilot program.

MEET THE TEACHERS!



MS. JEN
DIRECTOR AND LEAD TEACHER

Ms Jen holds a life-long passion for teaching, knowing from a young age that this was her path in life. She graduated from Kutztown University in 2011 with a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Her career has led her to teach in special education, kindergarten, and early childhood yoga and mindfulness. During her time as a stay at home mom raising her two children, she connected with the late Kelly Simonetti at Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary, who inspired her path to teach through a nature-inspired lens. She opened her nature class business on Kelly's property, which was cut short due to the unfortunate passing of Kelly and closing of Antler Ridge. It wasn't long before the opportunity at Johnsonburg presented itself and Flourish was born! Ms Jen feels she is right where she is meant to be and can't wait to grow the Flourish community.



MR. JUSTIN
ASSISTANT TEACHER

Justin has devoted his professional career to helping children grow their skills and knowledge. He has been employed by Johnsonburg as a Camp Counselor, Program Coordinator, and Program Associate starting in 2019. He has worked in the preschool environment teaching toddlers the importance of sports, healthy eating and lifestyle choices. When the pandemic hit in 2020, his career shifted and he was called by The Lawrenceville School to develop and direct a virtual learning school for the children of the teachers at the school. After successfully running that program, he knew that he wanted to pursue working with children as his career indefinitely. Justin's passions include hiking, mountain and cross country biking, disc golf, and just being outside in nature, especially in the fall and winter! He is excited to be working with Flourish and can not wait to meet and guide our first participants!

SCHOOL DAY DETAILS

SPEED LIMIT AT JOHNSONBURG

A **5 MPH** is strictly enforced at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center! For the safety of the children, staff, visitors, and wildlife, we kindly ask that you follow this walking speed limit as soon as you enter the Johnsonburg campus. We all thank you!

ARRIVAL

Our school days begins promptly at 9:00am. We currently are not offering before care.

Slowly drive down to the Rec Center and park in the designated parking. **Please walk your child into the indoor classroom**, located inside the Rec Center. Your child's teachers will greet you in the classroom.

Parents will sign in at the classroom door. We ask you please stay no longer than 5 minutes, so your child can settle into the classroom and engage in center time before we head outside.

Rec Center location: Pass the camp office and drive through the gate. At the fork in the road, go right. The Rec Center is the first building on the right handside.

ABSENCES

If your child will not be attending school for the day, please call or text the director at 973-271-6725, no later than 8:45 AM.

If your child is arriving late, a text notice must be given no later than 8:50 AM. It is very important to us that your child arrives at school on time and is given sufficient time to settle in to the indoor classroom space before transitioning outdoors. Our morning center time ends at 9:30 AM to head outside until lunchtime. All children must be present before going outdoors. We thank you for your understanding!

ARRIVAL SEPARATION

Arriving and separating from your child at preschool is a normal part of their growth and development. It's common for children to have mixed feelings during this time. Below are some best practices to make this transition smoother:

Consistent Routine:

Establish a consistent drop-off routine with a brief and positive goodbye. Children thrive on predictability.

Stay Calm and Reassuring:

Maintain a calm demeanor and reassure your child that you will return. A hug, smile and kiss go a long way.

Quick Goodbye:

Keep your farewell short and sweet. Prolonged goodbyes can sometimes make the transition more challenging.

Trust the Teachers:

Trust the experienced preschool teachers to care for your child. They are trained to help children adjust and feel comfortable.

Communicate:

Share any special instructions or concerns with the teachers so they can provide the best care for your child.

Remember, every child is unique, and some may take longer to adapt. With patience and consistency, most children will gradually become more comfortable with preschool drop-offs.

TOYS FROM HOME

We kindly ask that all toys and special comfort items stay at home.

*Please note: Flourish is not responsible for any items that are lost, damaged, misplaced, and/or stolen during school hours.

DEPARTURE

Our day ends at 1:00pm. We currently are not offering after care.

Children will be dismissed at the Johnsonburg's main office. We will walk up together as a class and wait for families to arrive. Please form a line in front of the office and wait in your cars. To exit, you will pull into the parking lot to the left and loop around for a safe departure for all!

LATE PICK UP POLICY

Flourish offers a 10 minute grace period for school pick up. Pick up after 1:10pm will result in a phone call and a \$10 late fee per 10 minutes per child which will be added to the next month's tuition. Please text 973-271-6725 to keep an update on arrival time.

Special cases, such as emergencies and weather will be excused.

PICK UP PLAN CHANGES

Please notify the director at 973-271-6725, no later than 12:45 PM if a new adult will be picking up your child, who is not listed on the pic-up authorization form. Photo identification will be required by anyone who is not noted on the authorization form. Without photo ID/consent, the child will not be released and the parent will be responsible for any additional fees that are incurred as a result.

DEPARTURE SAFETY

Your child will not be released to any person who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If your child is taken, authorities will be notified and your Flourish Nature School contract will be terminated.

If a child is not picked up and a parent cannot be reached, authorities will be contacted.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Johnsonburg observes the following holidays this fall:

- Thanksgiving (Nov. 23)

SCHOOL CLOSING

School Closing: In the event of snow or severe weather conditions where school must be closed, the director will notify parents/guardians via email and text message as soon as the decision is made. We will take into account neighboring school districts, however, the decision will be made by Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center.

Early Dismissal: In the event that we must close the school early due to weather where conditions are predicted to worsen, parents/guardians will be notified by staff to pick up their children. Please keep all contact information up-to-date and always have a back-up plan for days where severe weather is predicted!

LUNCH

Students must bring their own lunch to school each day.

We encourage the use of reusable containers filled with a diverse and nutritious assortment of fruits, vegetables, cheeses, protein and whole grains. We discourage packing "junk foods" and desserts for school lunch. If you need any lunch ideas, please reach out to your child's teacher! We appreciate your understanding and cooperation!

SNACK

Flourish Nature School will provide a healthy snack daily for children. You may also pack your child a snack if you prefer.

WATER

To minimize recycling and waste, please send a **reusable water** bottle be sent with your child each day. Not only does this promote environmental consciousness, but it also ensures that your child stays well-hydrated. Our team is dedicated to refilling water bottles as needed and our water fountain is equipped with a bottle filling station!

ALLERGIES

A Child Health Assessment form must be completed before the start of school and signed by the child's health care provider and parent/guardian. In the case of any known allergies, an allergy action plan from your pediatrician will be required for any known allergies. Please update this plan as often as needed and keep your child's teacher updated! We deeply care about your child's well-being. **Johnsonburg is a nut-free campus. No nut items in packed lunches, please!**

REST

Our half-day pilot program will not have a scheduled nap or rest time. If your child is feeling tired, we will give them a space to lay and rest if desired.

CLOTHING

We provide an environment rich in open-ended materials such as paint, sand, dirt, water, clay, and more, allowing your child to freely express themselves and engage in self-directed learning experiences. Messiness is expected and encouraged.

Please dress your child in clothing that you don't mind getting dirty!

As we spend the majority of our time outdoors, dressing appropriately for the weather is crucial to ensuring your child's safety, comfort and enjoyment. See below for season suggestions:

SEASONAL CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS

FALL

- Layering is key as temperatures may vary throughout the day.
- Warm, comfortable jackets and sweaters are recommended.
- Closed-toe shoes or boots are essential for leafy explorations, jumping, running, and exploring.
- Hats and gloves may be needed as the weather cools.

WINTER

- Insulated and waterproof clothing is essential to stay warm and dry.
- Coats, gloves, scarves, and hats are crucial in colder temperatures.
- Thermal layers and warm socks are recommended.
- Waterproof boots are a must for snowy adventures.

SPRING

- Dress in layers to accommodate changing temperatures.
- Light jackets or sweaters are recommended.
- Waterproof or water-resistant boots are essential for muddy adventures.
- Hats and sunscreen are encouraged to protect from the sun's rays.

SUMMER

- Lightweight and breathable clothing is recommended.
- Sun hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen are essential.
- Closed-toe shoes with sturdy soles are ideal for outdoor play.

REQUIRED CLOTHING

Your child must have a pair of rain bibs, rain jacket, and rain boots -- we will send home rain bibs and jacket each week to be washed.

<https://outdoorschoolshop.com>

<https://amazon.com>

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR CLOTHING

Please label all clothing items with your child's name.

Provide a spare set of seasonal clothes in case of messy play or unexpected weather changes.

Again, dress your child in clothing that can get dirty!

Please refer to this layering clothing resource for optimal comfort and protection for your child: <https://outdoorschoolshop.com/layering-guide/>

DAILY "BRING TO SCHOOL" CHECKLIST

- Full size backpack
- Change of clothing - socks included.
- Rain boots and/or Insulated Snow boots (you may leave at school)
- Lunch
- Reusable Water Bottle

DONATIONS

We gladly accept donations throughout the year! We are always in need of tissues, paper towels, crafting supplies, loose parts materials, and nature-inspired and emotion-inspired children's books. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you would like to support/send supplies in!

PARENT/STAFF COMMUNICATION

We believe that open and transparent communication between staff and your family is fundamental to creating a nurturing and collaborative learning environment. This means that we warmly encourage and welcome your engagement in your child's preschool experience. Whether it's through daily/weekly conversations, regular updates on Class Dojo, newsletters, or scheduled parent-teacher meetings, we value your insights, engagement, concerns, and feedback. Your active involvement ensures that we work together to provide the best possible care and education for your child. We're excited to build a strong partnership that supports your child's growth, development, and well-being in our Flourish community.

Please check your child's cubby daily for important information, newsletters and items to take home.

CLASS DOJO

We will be using the app Class Dojo to share photos, class updates and reminders. Please download the app prior to the start of the school year and keep your notifications turned on.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We recognize the value of social media as a tool for fostering community, inspiring nature-play, and celebrating the wonderful moments that unfold at Flourish. With great respect for your choices as parents, we acknowledge your decision to share or not share your child's experiences on social media platforms. To ensure clear communication and consent, we kindly ask that all parents sign a social media waiver before the beginning of the school year. This waiver grants us permission to share the beauty of our nature-based learning journey, all while respecting your preferences regarding your child's online presence. We ask that you please do not post any photos of your child's classmates on your personal social media pages, however, we do encourage you to share about Flourish Nature School!

VOLUNTEERS

We gladly invite parents to volunteer within our program, whether it be demonstrating a hobby, talent, or occupation, reading a story, assisting with celebrations or general classroom help. Please contact Jen Lewin at jen@johnsonburg.org or 973-271-6725 if you wish to volunteer in your child's classroom and we will try our best to find a time that works for all.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are very special to us at Flourish. We invite you to bring a treat to share with your child's class to celebrate. Please reach out to your child's teacher regarding class size and dietary restrictions.

HOME SITUATIONS

Please let us know about changes in the family or the household such as parent/guardian trips, new baby, change in babysitter or nanny, divorce, illness, etc. Any of these situations might explain sudden behavioral or emotional changes in your child. Your teachers are here to support and we empathize with all the change life throws our way.

OUTDOOR TIME + SAFETY

At Flourish Nature School, we prioritize outdoor play and believe in the importance of children experiencing nature in all weather conditions. We spend most of our time outdoors. Safety is our utmost concern during outdoor play. Each morning, our staff conducts a weather check and a visual risk assessment of the nature play area to ensure its safety before the children go out to play. Our staff maintains the recommended staff-to-child ratio at all times, and we ensure children's safety by having at least one educator in contact with a staff member in Johnsonburg's indoor office via school cell phone. Our staff always carries a safety bag that includes an emergency kit, water, and tissues. We will review our safety agreements each day as a class, and give reminders as needed during our time outside. Thank you for trusting us!

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Flourish is proud to be a screen-free environment. Our staff is prohibited from personal cell phone use during school hours, with the exception of communicating with parents, taking photos or personal emergencies.

SICK POLICY

If your child is exhibiting any signs of illness before the start of the school day, we ask that he/she is kept home until symptoms reside. We understand how difficult surprise sick days can be for working parents, especially during preschool years, so please plan ahead and have a plan in place for when your child is ill.

If a child becomes sick during the school day, we will contact that parent or guardian on the required health form. Please pick your child up within one hour of the phone call for the comfort of your child and to prevent the spread of illness. Please note, there are no refunds for sick days.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Your child may return to school when he/she is symptom free for 24 hours or with a physician's note stating that there is no health risk to others.

MEDICAL STAFF

We do not have medical staff on duty at our school. However, our teachers are CPR certified.

There are 3 AED devices located on site at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center. One being located directly across from our indoor classroom.

See below for emergency information.

POLICY OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, he/she should not attend school until he/she is symptom free for 24 hours:

- Sore throat or severe coughing
- Elevated temperature of 100.4 F
- Acute diarrhea
- Episodes of vomiting
- Yellow eyes or jaundice skin
- Red eyes with discharge
- Skin rashes lasting longer than 24 hours
- Infected untreated skin patches
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Swollen joints
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Stiff neck
- Blood in urine or B.M.
- Severe pain or discomfort

If a child contracts any of the following diseases, you must report it to the director immediately. We need to inform the school population if there is an outbreak of a contagious illness. We will be discreet in our sharing. Your child may not return to school without a physician's note or when he/she presents no risk to others.

TABLE OF EXCLUDABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| • Chicken Pox | • Hepatitis A | • Whooping Cough |
| • Tuberculosis | • Scabies | • Hemophilus |
| • Lice | • German measles | |
| • Impetigo | • Salmonella | |
| • Giardia Lablia | • Shigella | |
| • Strep throat | • Influenza | |

MEDICINES FROM HOME

Any medicine requiring administration during the school day must be accompanied by a medication authorization form with a physician's signature and instructions. All medications must be in the original container with an up-to-date prescription label.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In the event of an emergency, a Flourish Nature School staff member will contact the designated emergency contacts listed on the registration form. It is crucial to keep this information up to date. If we are unable to reach any of the contacts listed, Flourish will take necessary action for the health and well-being of your child.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

At Flourish Nature School, our approach to guidance and discipline is firmly rooted in positivity, consistency, and age-appropriateness. Our ultimate goal is to empower each child with the ability to self-regulate, express feelings and exercise self-control. In situations where redirection is necessary, children may be temporarily moved to a different area or the class may be removed if there is a safety issue at hand. Importantly, during this time, they will always be under the supervision and guidance of a staff member or continuously visible to a staff member. We respect each child's autonomy and allow them to decide when they feel ready to rejoin the group, a decision based on their own sense of regained self-control. We want to emphasize that discipline is never imposed for issues related to eating, sleeping, or personal hygiene. Physical punishment, threats of withholding food, playtime, and activities, or imparting a sense of being "bad" are also excluded from our discipline policy. We approach all situations with a sense of love, compassion and empowerment. Our commitment is to create a nurturing and respectful environment where each child can thrive and flourish.

We are dedicated to collaborating with parents when children face challenges at Flourish. However, our commitment is to the well-being of all our children. Instances of chronic disruptive behavior that adversely affect the physical or emotional well-being of another child or the class, a parent/teacher meeting will be scheduled for next steps.

EXPULSION POLICY FOR FLOURISH NATURE SCHOOL

Unfortunately, there are reasons we may need to dismiss/expel a child from our program for a short-term or permanent basis. We want you to know we will do everything possible to work with the family of the child(ren) in order to prevent this policy from being enforced.

The following are reasons we may have to expel or suspend a child from this center:

IMMEDIATE CAUSES FOR EXPULSION

- The child is at risk of causing serious injury to other children, staff or himself/herself.
- Parent(s) threaten physical or intimidating actions toward staff members.
- Parent(s) exhibit verbal abuse to staff in front of enrolled children.

PARENTAL ACTIONS FOR CHILD'S EXPULSION

- Failure to pay/habitual lateness in payments.
- Failure to complete required forms including the child's immunization records.
- Habitual tardiness when picking up your child.
- Verbal abuse to staff.
- Other (explain).

CHILD'S ACTIONS FOR EXPULSION

- Failure of child to adjust after a reasonable amount of time.
- Uncontrollable tantrums/ angry outbursts.
- Ongoing physical or verbal abuse to staff or other children.
- Excessive biting.
- Other (explain)

SCHEDULE OF EXPULSION


If after the remedial actions have not worked, the child's parent/guardian will be advised verbally and in writing about the child's or parent's behavior warranting an expulsion. An expulsion action is meant to be for a period of time so that the parent/ guardian may work on the child's behavior or to come to an agreement with the center. The parent/guardian will be informed regarding the length of the expulsion period and the expected behavioral changes required in order for the child or parent to return to the center. The parent/guardian will be given a specific expulsion date that allows the parent sufficient time to seek alternate child care (approximately one to two weeks' notice depending on risk to other children's welfare or safety). Failure of the child/parent to satisfy the terms of the plan may result in permanent expulsion from the center.

A CHILD WILL NOT BE EXPELLED IF A PARENT/GUARDIAN

- Reported abuse or neglect occurring at the center.
- Questioned the center regarding policies and procedures.
- Without giving the parent sufficient time to make other child care arrangements.

PROACTIVE ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO PREVENT EXPULSION

- Try to redirect the child from negative behavior.
- Reassess classroom environment, appropriateness of activities, supervision.
- Always use positive methods and language while disciplining children.
- Praise appropriate behaviors.
- Consistently apply consequences for rules.
- Give the child verbal warnings.
- Give the child time to regain control.
- Document the child's disruptive behavior and maintain confidentiality.
- Give the parent/guardian written copies of the disruptive behavior that might lead to expulsion.
- Schedule a conference including the director, classroom staff, and parent/guardian to discuss how to promote positive behaviors.
- Give the parent literature of other resources regarding methods of improving behavior.
- Recommend an evaluation by professional consultation on premises.
- Recommend an evaluation by the local school district study team.



A BIG HUG AND A BIG THANK YOU!

The support from our families and community is how our program grows and flourishes.

Please reach out with any questions, concerns, feedback, well-wishes or love.

It is all welcomed and greatly appreciated.

