Teddy Bear Welcome Packet
School Year 2022 - 2023

WELCOME TO OUR TEDDY BEAR FAMILY
FROM MS. CHONA AND MS. KATIE!

BY NOW, YOU HAVE RECEIVED MS. NIKKI'S EMAIL DETAILING THE SCHOOL CALENDAR, PARENT HANDBOOK, AND ORIENTATION SCHEDULE. (THIS INFORMATION AND OTHER BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION IS ON OUR WEBSITE.) PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ. THIS LETTER WILL FILL YOU IN ON OTHER INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP TRANSITION YOUR TEDDY BEAR FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR AHEAD.

WHAT TO BRING THE FIRST DAY:

***BACKPACK OR TOTE BAG** WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME WRITTEN VISIBLY ON THE OUTSIDE. WE WILL BE USING IT TO SEND HOME INFORMATION, WET/DIRTY CLOTHING, AND ARTWORK. WONDERING ABOUT SIZE? LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD A WATER BOTTLE, A LUNCH BOX (IF STAYING ALL DAY) AND ANY ARTWORK THAT WILL COME HOME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND SMALL ENOUGH FOR A CHILD TO INDEPENDENTLY HANDLE.

***Clothing** – We will be very busy everyday, inside and out! Children need to wear play clothes that are comfortable and give freedom of movement. Appropriate footwear allows for running, climbing, playing in the sand and on the equipment. We will frequently use messy materials (markers, glue, paint, play-doh, etc.). While we offer smocks at the art table, clothes sometimes get stained. **On the first day of school, please send two complete extra sets of labeled clothes to school for your child, including socks, underwear and/or diapers and wipes.** As the seasons change, we ask you to make sure the extra clothes are weather appropriate. **All clothing, jackets, coats, gloves, and hats should be clearly labeled with your child's name.**

***WATER BOTTLE** (LABELED WITH CHILD'S NAME) WHICH WE WILL USE THROUGHOUT THE DAY. TEDDY BEARS WILL STORE THEIR WATER BOTTLES IN HIS/HER CUBBIES. WATER BOTTLES WILL GO HOME EACH DAY FOR CLEANING AND REFILLING.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE DAY

Before Arrival - Please use the bathroom/change diaper or Pull-up before arriving at school. Please assess how your child is feeling and let teachers know about allergies, injuries, or any information that may affect your child's day. Please apply sunscreen to your child as licensing does not allow us to apply it without a doctor's note. We will go outside each day weather permitting. Feel free to bring sun hats and sunglasses.

Carpool: Arrival & Dismissal – Safety is our number one priority. We have a secure and efficient process for transitioning to and from school. For your child's safety please do not use your cell phone in the carpool line.

Arrival – Arrival begins at 8:50 a.m. The parent/caregiver will assist the student out of the car (unbuckle and remove the child from the car seat) and meet the teacher.

Dismissal – Half Day Children - We ask that parents/caregivers arrive at 11:35 am to ensure the Teddy Bears are dismissed first. Our class will assemble at the covered patio outside our room. The teacher will walk the student to the parent waiting outside of their car. Parents should safely and quickly load and buckle their child into the car seat. Please refrain from offering a snack or other item that will hold up the car line.

SNACK: EACH DAY WE SERVE A HEALTHY, NUT-FREE SNACK MIDMORNING. SNACK INCLUDES FRESH OR DRIED FRUIT AND A TYPE OF CRACKER (GOLDFISH, RITZ, GRAHAM, FOR EXAMPLE). PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR CHILD DEVELOPS OR HAS A FOOD ALLERGY.

LUNCH: IF YOUR CHILD IS STAYING ALL DAY, PLEASE SEND A LUNCH (LABEL THE CONTAINER WITH CHILD'S NAME)) THAT DOES NOT NEED REFRIGERATION OR ANY FOOD MICROWAVED. No nuts please.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: Birthdays are a special time for two- and three-year-olds. Children are welcome to celebrate their day (or half birthday for summer birthdays) with a snack (nut free) from home or an activity like bringing a favorite book. Parents are always welcome to celebrate their child's special day. We understand this is not always an option with work, siblings, and other obligations. This is completely **optional**, feel free to do what's best for your family. Birthdays snacks can be dropped off at morning carpool. As a Teddy Bear class, we will sing a happy birthday song and wish the birthday boy or girl a great day.

Communication – Our Teddy Bear website page has updates on what activities are happening in the classroom (see next section). A classroom newsletter will be published approximately every week. The newsletter will include classroom themes, reminders about upcoming special days, conferences, or celebrations. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year, in the fall and spring. Feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions, concerns, or insights that may enhance your child's school experience. The best way to reach us is via email, and we will be happy to schedule an additional phone call or meeting to answer questions, offer observations and give assistance. **THE BEST WAY TO REACH TEACHERS IS VIA EMAIL. MS. CHONA: chonacarson@yahoo.com MS. KATIE: loyndkm@aol.com We will be engaged with your children during the day. If you need to reach us, please contact the office. We will return emails after 3:15 during the school week.**

Website – Our WUNS website (http://nurseryschool.wustl.edu) is an excellent resource for parents and families. The Teddy Bear classroom page is found under the "Classroom" tab. Here you will find classroom announcements, current newsletter, pictures, and videos.

Toys at School – Teddy Bears are welcome to bring a lovey or comfort item from home in order to ease the transition from home to school. We understand how exciting it can be to bring a favorite toy or game to school to show friends. We also understand how frustrating and disheartening it can be to find that special something lost or broken at the end of the day. We take pride in providing a wide variety of interesting and appealing toys. We request that children leave their personal toys at home. More often than not, toys from home tend to detract from the cooperative school atmosphere instead of enhancing children's interest in creative play.

***Please send in a baby picture of your child (under 1 year old) and a family picture. Children love to see their families during the day. This can be sent via email. Thank you!**

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR V.I.B. (VERY IMPORTANT BEAR) WITH US THIS YEAR. We are excited to start a wonderful year of adventures in the Teddy Bear Classroom. Thank you for all you do to support us and your child!

~Katie & Chona