

August 19, 2014

Dear Children and Parents,

Welcome to our classroom! We look forward to meeting you and to building our class community together. In this opening letter we begin with the Reggio concept of "The Hundred Languages of Children." Children develop both receptive (comprehension) and productive (communication) competence through many channels. They hear, see, taste, touch, feel, move, dance, jump (and more!) to understand their world and to find ways to transform that understanding. We will go beyond the language of words and communicate through the visual arts, music, movement and dance. Be prepared for lots of symbolic thinking to unfold!

To help you get ready, we have adapted the school lists for our specific classroom and hope you will be able to send the following in with your child on the first day of school:

Please label everything:

Backpack

Cubby items

- Arts & craft smock (parents old shirts work well)
- Change of clothes
- Extra underwear
- Sweater/sweatshirt
- Wellies/rainboots (rain, snow, & mud are inevitable)
- Slippers (for nap time and/or wet shoes)
- Hat

Please apply bug spray or sunscreen, if used, at home before school.

Nap sack

- Blanket
- Light Blanket/fitted sheet (for on top of mat)
- Pillow with case
- Quiet, soft snuggle buddy

Lunch and Snack Box

We will strive to be a waste free classroom. Please send food and drink in reusable containers (plastic is not recommended as, over time, it breaks down and could contaminate food.)

We will also strive to be a healthy classroom. Please try to stay away from processed food and drink.

- Refillable water bottle
- Cloth napkins
- Cutlery
- Reusable containers

Classroom items

In an effort to make our classroom a living, interactive and caring place that each child helps to create we are asking each child, if possible, to bring in a plant and a stone (approximately 1") to the classroom on the first day.

As you know, we are inspired by the approach to learning of the schools in Reggio Emilia in Italy. Throughout the year we will share the how and why of what we are doing, and we invite you to inquire, participate and enjoy this unique mindset for early development and learning.

Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Amanda and Vicky

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amanda", written in black ink.