



BUILDING BLOCKS CHILDCARE CENTRES

LOVE | LAUGHTER | FRIENDSHIP | FAMILY

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2018

Hello and welcome to all new and returning families. We are about to embark on an adventure that is new to some of you and not so new to others, which we are very much looking forward to. This is the beginning of our monthly newsletters that will be available online and in your child's classroom at the beginning of each month. Please read through the newsletter thoroughly as we will be giving an overview of the month's activities. At anytime if you have any questions about what you have read, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

First of all before I get into the usual items discussed in the newsletter, I would like to address a few items that may or may not be new. The first one is arrival time. Please be aware that the front door (the only door that we use for drop off and pick up) will be locked at all times. Please note that under no circumstances will your child be allowed in until right at the start time which is 7:30am for Southview and 8:30am for Southlands (if you are registered for afternoons only then 12:30pm). Please plan on arriving at this time and not earlier, especially in the winter months, so that you do not have to wait outside long. Unfortunately, we cannot be flexible on this as this is an Alberta Government Licensing Regulation.

The second item is late pick ups. It is very crucial that you pick your child up right on time for a few reasons. The first one being is the last child almost always is sad thinking that Mom/Dad has forgotten them. Secondly, it is a licensing regulation that no children can be here when the childcare facility is closed. If any children are found here 5 minutes past dismissal time then that means I am in non-compliance which could mean a shut down of our center. As you can understand I cannot allow that to happen so we thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation in this very important matter. To avoid this from happening we have implemented a late pick up fee. **Parents who pick their child up later than 5 minutes passed dismissal time, 5:30pm, will be subject to a late pick up fee which is \$1.00 per child per minute late (according to our classroom clock).** This must be paid before your child attends school again. We do realize that sometimes there are circumstances that occur which are beyond your control so please phone if you know you will be late or arrange to pick up your child earlier than the dismissal time. Please note as well that if a parent is consistently late, the 5 minute grace period will no longer apply and the late fee will be charged starting at 5:30pm.

Show and tell will be once a month. Please note that we will only allow toys from home on specified days such as for our color board and show and tell. Toys from home cause problems such as other children want to play

with the toy but the child, understandably, becomes upset because for most children, sharing is a hard concept to understand. Also, the school probably does not have similar toys that the other children can play with and lastly, your child could become very upset if their toy was lost or broken. Please encourage children to leave their toys at home as teachers will not allow toys to come into the classroom if it is not show and tell.

The fees are based on a flat rate. The fees that you pay are to reserve your child's space. Some of the months will have more days than others. Instead of paying more some months and less in others, the fees are flat rates. Because of this, we cannot adjust fees due to absences in any circumstances. Remember fees are always due on the last business day of the month in advance. Any fees not paid by this date will be subjected to a \$40 late fee. Parents will have a specified time period to clear up their fees. At this point if fees have not been collected, childcare services will be temporarily suspended until all fees are cleared up. We realize there may be some circumstances that will arise that will make this difficult. We ask that you talk to either the program supervisor or the director to make arrangements.

Remember if you are subsidized your child needs to attend school for at least 100 hours per month so the centre can claim the full portion from subsidy. Please note that if subsidy does not pay the full portion that we are expecting to receive then the parent will be billed and responsible for that amount. If you have any questions regarding your subsidy, please feel free to come to the office.

Please note that your child may not be bringing crafts home all of the time simply because we like to decorate our class with your child's artwork. You will be receiving their crafts at the end of the month.

Parent Volunteering throughout the year: We very much encourage parent volunteers. We just ask however that you wait until October to volunteer as this gives us and your child the opportunity to get to know each other and the routine. After September, if you would like to volunteer we ask that you sign up on the snack schedule, which is posted on the parent board. We ask that we have only one parent volunteer per class except on special occasions. Again we would like to remind you that when you do volunteer please make alternate arrangements for siblings. There will be special occasions that siblings will be included in classroom activities.

I believe I have finally covered all the items I needed to before the usual newsletter items so here we go: This month's themes will be Apples and Friendship. We will be learning songs and finger plays according to the theme. The letters of the week will be A, B and C along with the corresponding animated literacy songs. The color will be red, the shape of the month will be the circle and the number is 1. Please note that we need your child to bring something red for our color board, which will be stapled or pinned. Please be sure to label your child's item. This will be returned at the end of the month. Show and tell this month is on Monday, September 17th. Please have your child bring something from home that corresponds with something that we are learning this month. Wear something red days will be on Thursday, Sept. 27th and Friday, Sept 28th.

CLOSURE DATES: Please note that we will be closed on Monday, September 5th for Labor Day and Friday, September 28th for a music workshop.

Birthday greetings go out to all of the children who are celebrating their birthdays this month. **If these parents would like to bring in a special snack and beverage please speak to your child's teacher. Remember: no nut products please as Building Blocks is a Nut Sensitive Environment.**

SCHOOL PICTURES DAY: will be in October. A memo will be going home when we have more information.

We will be starting the communication books, printing readiness, pre-k and k enhancement program next week. Please be sure to read your child's communication book everyday that he/she is in school and initial the book to

let us know that you have read it. This is a great tool that facilitates communication between home and school so please feel free to write any comments or questions you may have as the books are looked at, except on the rare occasion, everyday. Please be sure to return your child's communication book and pre-k duo tang (if applicable) to school everyday.

We are looking at assessing all of our children using the Ages and Stages assessment tool. This helps us and you to identify any areas in which your child may require extra support. A consent form will be sent home sometime this month and needs to be brought back to your child's teacher before we can begin the assessment. We thank you for your cooperation as we are looking at ways to improve our programming to better suit individual children's needs. Again, we appreciate your cooperation as we are trying to improve our program to better suit you and your families needs.

Throughout this month your child may be a little more sensitive and display some symptoms of separation anxiety. This is very typical and quite expected. Your child may cry for the first couple of weeks during drop off. We suggest that the best way to handle this is upon arrival, sign your child in on the parent board, help him/her with their coat, help with their name tag, give them a hug and kiss, tell them you love them and that you will be here at home time, then please exit the school as soon as possible!!! It is proven by observations throughout the years and by research that the longer a parent stays the more a child will work themselves up into almost a hysteria. It is viewed as almost cruel to the child the longer a parent stays because all they are thinking about is that you are leaving which raises the anxiety level. By leaving sooner than later, you are not allowing the anxiety to build and therefore creating a smoother transition into school. I can completely empathize with you that you feel extremely guilty if you leave your child when they are literally screaming for you however please know that you are doing your child an extreme favor by leaving as fast as you can. Once your child has settled then you may make a more leisurely exit. I am also going to ask parents whose children may not be displaying signs of anxiety to please help us out and leave as soon as their child has their name tag on as this will help the anxious children because there will be no parents to remind them of theirs. Hopefully this all makes sense to everyone and thank you for your cooperation in this very sensitive matter. If everyone cooperates with this we should have less anxious children a lot faster. If you have any questions or concerns about this or any matter please do not hesitate to speak to myself, Mrs. Andrea Coulombe, the centre's program director or your child's teacher.

We are very much looking forward to seeing old faces and getting to know new ones. We are extremely excited about starting a new school year and look forward to working with each and every one of you!

Sincerely,

Andrea Coulombe
Director of Programs