

Dear Families,

October 2019

We are proud and delighted at the way your children have eased into the school routine during the month of September! Everyone seems comfortable with our schedule and the classroom environment. A pat on the back is deserved by all of our toddlers and grown-ups for all the hard work that has been done already and for a terrific start to the school year!

We will continue the separation process during October. While in the classroom with your child, please try to “step aside” and provide them with space for independent play. When it is time to separate we ask you to:

1. Establish Trust – say to your child, “This is a good place to play. “Mrs. Keibler will take good care of you until I come back.” or “Mrs. Porco will be your good helper while I’m having my coffee.” Do not leave the room without telling your child you are going, even if they are engaged in play. They will be distraught if they discover you left without telling them, and they will not let you out of their sight for fear of you “leaving them” next time.
2. Acknowledge feelings – say, if appropriate, “You are upset because I am going. In a little while you will want to play. Until then, Mrs. Keibler will stay close to you.” or “I know you are angry because I am going. I will be back after you play. Mrs. Porco will take good care of you.”
3. Keep your promise – say “I’ll play with you for a few minutes. Then it will be time for me to get some coffee in the coffee room.” When the time is up, say, “It is time for me to go now. I will be back in a few minutes.” Then leave, don’t waver. Hanging around after saying good-bye only causes more anxiety for both you and your child.

We understand that this time of separation can be very stressful for you and your child. Please know that we have an endless supply of hugs and comforting words, but that we also respect the ways each of your children react to your leaving. Some children want to be nurtured, others are angry and want to be left alone and still others need to cry for a while. If you hear your child crying, don’t think he/she is being neglected. We will do our best to assess your child’s

needs and call you back in the room if we deem it necessary. Thank you for entrusting your children to us.

This month in Toddlers we will continue our work on the colors, talk about fall, and we will talk about the changes that we see happening outside. We are excited to share this wonderful time of the year with your children!! Halloween is also coming up this month. In our classroom, we concentrate on equating pumpkins with Halloween and we refrain from associating anything "scary" with the holiday. We will have a dress up party for our toddlers, but we are asking for your help with this. We ask that your child's costume be nothing scary and that your child not wear a mask or anything covering his/her face. At this age, children have a difficult time understanding that a person's identity does not change when they put on a mask. We think that this will be a fun activity and a fun day for all. Please bring your child to school dressed in his/her costume as we will be busy on our party day and wouldn't want to take time away from the fun! You are welcome to bring in a wrapped treat to put in classmates treat bags, if you wish. There are 13 children in our class. Our party day will be Thursday, October 31st. If your child chooses not to dress up in a costume for our party that is okay too. Our goal is to make it a fun experience for your child, so we are very flexible and willing to work with whatever choice makes your toddler the most comfortable.

We have enjoyed getting to know all of you better and look forward to more fun times together this month! What fun to be with curious, engaging two year olds! Happy October!!

In Him,
Mrs. Keibler, Mrs. H, and Mrs. Porco