

Dear Families,

Hi, and welcome to the Yellow Owl's Class at Mother's Day Out. My name is Carrie Kiiskila and I will be your child's teacher for the year. I have been at Mother's Day Out for 18 years and counting :) . I have taught all different ages and have found that two year olds are a "special breed" and hold a dear place in my heart. Below, you will find our daily schedule and other important information you will need to know. I know it looks like a lot to read, but, I'm sure you will find it helpful. Hopefully, it will answer all of your questions. Please feel free to email me with any other questions... my email is carrie.kiiskila@mdoracine.com

Ms. Carrie :)

DAILY SCHEDULE:

9:15 - 9:30	Drop Off
9:15 - 9:45	Free Play
9:45-	Clean Up Time
9:50 - 10:15	Snack
10:15 - 10:30	Change Diapers
10:30 - 11:15	Outdoor Play / Gym
11:15 - 11:40	Art, music (songs) & Story Time
11:40 - 12:10	Lunch Time
12:10 - 12:30	Change Diapers / Book Time
12:30 - 1:55	Nap Time
2:00 -2:15	Pick Up Time

PARENT INFO BOARD: There is a bulletin board inside the room, to the right of the door. Where you will find lots of important information. This will include calendar, snack sheet and other school news. There is also a White Board, outside of our room, where I will write what we did for the day, and any other important information you may need to know. Please check daily. We also encourage our families to go to our website www.mdoracine.com for information posted there monthly regarding our classroom. Check out the Yellow Owl section.

CUBBIES:

Each child will have their own cubby to keep their things in. Please keep at least one set of clothing, including socks, in their cubby basket at all times. Also, remember to check every now and then to make sure the set of clothes they have, are appropriate for the weather. There's been a few times, in the past, when we've had to put shorts on someone in the middle of Winter.... yikes!! :) PLEASE LABEL COATS and ALL other belongings!! If your child is in diapers please bring a package of diapers labeled with your child's name on them. We will notify you when the diapers are running low. If your child uses special diaper cream please send this along labeled as well. You will also need to fill out a medication form at the open house for us to keep on file.

SNACK TIME:

Each month you will be asked to provide snack for the classroom. Your child will be assigned certain days each month to provide snack for 8 children. The snack list will go out before the start of each month. Please, see us if you would like any ideas on what to bring. This year, we are introducing a few changes to our snack policy. The first thing is, we will no longer be asking for juice at snack time. After reviewing the state guidelines and talking with our families, we have decided to serve water at snack time. MDO will provide the water using water filtration pitchers.

The second change is we are offering a second option to providing snack.

Option 1: On or before your child's snack day, you will bring in snack for 16 children.

Option 2: MDO will provide snack for your child's classroom. This option costs \$10.00 for each snack day. MDO will charge your account and then provide the snack for your child's class.

The last change to our snack policy this year is, if you forget snack on your snack day, we will charge your account \$10.00 to cover snack for that day. We will allow you the opportunity to bring in your snack the next day and reverse the fee. The exception to this rule is, if your child is sick or on vacation. In those cases, we ask that you bring snack in on the next day your child is in attendance.

LUNCHES:

You know your children best and what they like to eat, but please keep in mind nutrition. We have found in the past that lunchables are NOT the best choice for your child's lunch. Many of the items in a lunchable usually do not get eaten. MDO will provide milk for lunch, so there is no need to send a drink. PLEASE LABEL lunch boxes and other small containers you may send. Lunch time is a busy time, and it's helpful to have everything labeled.

REST TIME:

Rest Time will be from 12:30-2:00. Please bring a LABELED, CHILD SIZED sleeping bag along with any "special" item they may need. This would include a pacifier, small pillow, stuffed animal, and a blanket. Sleeping bags will be kept in an XL Ziploc bag provided by the center. If your child has never used a sleeping bag before, it would be a very good idea to "practice" at home BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS. :) Also, we will be sending sleeping bags home to be washed, after EVERY 5 USES. Please return the sleeping bags in the ziploc bags we provide.

SEPARATION ANXIETY :

For some of you, this is your child's first experience with Preschool. For others, you may have been here before. Whatever the case, it is normal for your child (and you) to have feelings of sadness and anxiety when they first start school. Here are a few suggestions that will make it easier for everyone.

TALK TO THEM ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN when they go to school. It's very scary for some children when they are introduced to something or somewhere that they are not familiar with. The more they know ahead of time, the safer and more secure they will feel.

REASSURE THEM that you will always come back when school is over. Let them know you will see them after rest time.

DON'T DRAG OUT YOUR "GOODBYES" This is a very important tip. Bring your child into the room, get them settled, and say goodbye. A PROMPT drop off is so much easier for all. I know how hard it is to leave when your child is upset and crying (I'm a Mom too :) but I promise you, your child will probably stop crying within a few minutes. Dragging it out or coming back in for "just one more hug", will only make it harder for them. We will let you know if your child is having a difficult time adjusting, and will talk about options at that time, if needed.

**** Also, please let me know ahead of time of any allergies, health issues, or health concerns. Allergies will be posted for other staff to see to ensure the safety for your child.

I look forward to meeting you at the Open House! Please bring all of the items needed for school the night of open house. It makes it much easier for you the first day of school. Our Open house will be on Tuesday, August 28th from 4:00-7:00. Please bring all of the required completed enrollment papers as well as a family picture for us to display in our classroom. Also Lifetouch will be at our open house from 4-7 to do our back to school pictures. We do ask that you please get your child's photo taken. You are under no obligation to purchase pictures. Our first day of school will be Wednesday, September 5th.

See you soon,

Ms.Carrie :)