

**Welcome to the**  
**Purple Owl**  
**Toddler Class**

Hello Purple Owl Families,

Welcome to MDO! We are honored and excited to be your children's teachers this year. We have met many wonderful families throughout our years at MDO and it was nice to meet many of you at Open House on August 28th. Our goal is to help your child develop and grow emotionally and socially in a caring and nurturing environment. We have a lot of fun planned for your little ones. Here is a little about us-

**Ms Barb Martin**-I have been a teacher with MDO for 14 years and before that I was a parent at MDO. My husband Craig and I have 2 children. Michelle and her husband live in the Minneapolis area. Kyle is and is starting his junior year at UW Madison. I enjoy working in my yard, crafting, traveling and spending time with my family. I love working with this age group and I look forward to getting to know you and your child.

**Ms. Carrie Poling**-I have been a teacher for child care for 16 years now. I have been at MDO for 4 years and have enjoyed it so much. My husband Tony and I have been married for 24 years and have 4 children. Anthony 24,Aaron 22,Austin 16 and Anika 12. I enjoy cooking for my family and spending time with them, reading, movies, traveling and I love to serve and spend time at my church. I am very excited to spend time with your children this year and help to show them the love of Jesus.

**Please bring these LABELED items in your child's backpack:**

- change of clothes
- family photo
- MDO forms completed
- Toddler - All About Me form
- Extra Diapers and any diaper ointment and extra pacifiers can be left at the center
- Sleeping bag and small pillow for rest time. These will be sent home each week.
- Pacifiers or comfort items needed for rest. If the item must be taken back and forth each day please place in a gallon ziploc bag inside their backpack. If the item can be left at school each week then place it in the sleeping bag.
- Water bottle

Every child has their own cubby to keep their things in. It is best to **LABEL** all your items. You do not need to bring a sippy cup or bibs (we have those).

## **Kid Report**

We will send out daily reports through Kid Reports. You will receive an email each evening telling about your child's day. You may also download the Kid Report app for your convenience. Check your backpack each day as you may have an important paper, announcement or work of art inside of it..

## **Snack time**

We ask our parents to bring their child's snacks at the beginning of each month. Please provide enough snacks for 12 children to help carry us through the month. Your snack should include two food groups for the classroom. A list for healthy snack ideas was sent out and also will be posted on our website resource page. MDO will provide water using water filtration pitchers.

## **Separation Anxiety**

We understand that it may be difficult for you to leave your child in a new surrounding and in the care of someone new, especially if your little one is in tears. It is normal for both parents and the child to have feelings of sadness and anxiety. I would suggest the following to help with this transition period:

- \* Talk to your child before attending their new adventure.
- \* Explain to your child about all of the fun, new things that they will be doing including rest in their sleeping bag. Perhaps practice sleeping in their sleeping bag at home.
- \* Always say "Goodbyes" and reassure your child that you will return after rest time.
- \* A prompt drop-off and goodbye is easier for your child and the tears usually last for a short time.

At any time, please feel free to call or stop and speak with the director. If your child is having great difficulties adjusting to being in school we will call you and we may suggest a shortened time for them to be in school and gradually lead up to their full day.

**Our daily schedule for the Purple Owls:**

9:00 - 9:30 Arrival, free play (we will have different toys and activity stations for free play set up)

9:45-10:15 Snack, story, fingerplays and songs

10:15-10:30 Clean up, change diapers

10:30-11:00 Gym or outside playground

11:00-11:20 Art

11:20-11:40 Circle Time (songs, fingerplays, dance or games)

11:40-12:00 Change diapers

12:00- 12:25 Lunch

12:30-2:00 Naptime

2:00 Departure

This is a loose schedule as we are more focused on the needs of each child. Especially in the beginning of the year when all are learning to adapt and transition. Each month you will receive a lesson plan (email) for stories and art projects. You can also go our our website [www.mdoracine.com](http://www.mdoracine.com) for information pertaining to our class. Just look for the Purple Owls. We have different themes each month and talk about these things throughout the day with the children. Our songs, stories and art projects usually reflect the theme. Our theme for September is "Me and My Family", please bring in a family photo that we can keep at school.

If you didn't attend our open house and bring these items then please bring the labeled items listed above. We will be happy to explain more about our class, answer your questions and start our year with our new friends. You can reach us by email at [barb.martin@mdoracine.com](mailto:barb.martin@mdoracine.com) or [carrie.poling@mdoracine.com](mailto:carrie.poling@mdoracine.com)

Ms. Barb and Ms. Carrie