

Welcome to the
Green Owl
Preschool Class

Dear Green Owl Families,

Welcome to the Green Owl 3's Preschool Class!! I am looking forward to a wonderful and fun filled school year. I am Ms. Rachael. I'm starting my 12th year at MDO and have really enjoyed helping our students and program grow over those years. This year things look a little different, but it is my priority to provide the best possible care and learning environment for your children. I value communication between home and school. Please feel free to email me with any questions, concerns or things you may want me to know at any time. We will be using Kid Reports again this year to keep you informed of what we did throughout the day. I will also be calling about once a month to check in, especially if I don't often get a chance to check in with you at drop off or pick up.

We at MDO believe that children learn best through play. I will be incorporating colors, shapes, counting, name recognition, and patterns in our day to day activities. We will also focus on independence, self help skills, problem solving, and working together. Your children will also learn how to correctly hold and use scissors, and work on pencil grip. The best part is we will be having fun while doing it in a structured environment.

Each month our classroom lesson plans will be made available on our website www.mdoracine.com. While I try to stick closely to our plans, I also take advantage of great weather days and will move our classroom outside for the day. We occasionally have laid back days, and every year we run into a "mutiny day." That's where what I have planned isn't what they want to do, so I let the children guide our day. (Those are usually my favorite days! It's so fun to watch where their little minds will take up on those days.)

Snack

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.

Lunch

Please pack your child a healthy lunch in easy to open containers. Lunch is another opportunity to work on self help skills. 2% Milk will be provided for the children. We ask that you don't send food that needs to be heated.

Rest Time

Each student will need a sleeping bag and if they would like, a small pillow. If your child has a special item they need to sleep with, please bring it each day and consider having a backup to leave at school. The sleeping bags will be stored in xl ziploc bags, and will be sent home to be washed EVERY WEEK. Please do not send any items that light up or make noise, as these can be distracting.

Backpacks

This year we are not storing extra clothes at school. Each day please send your child to school with a backpack with the following items:

- **Complete change of clothes** (Tops, bottoms, underwear, socks, and shoes) If your child is still potty training please send multiple sets.
- **Lunch**
- **Water Bottle** (They will take their water bottles everywhere with us. Outside, gym, music and movement, etc.)

Potty Training

If your child is not potty trained when starting school in September, we ask that you actively are involved in the potty training process. We will work with you and your child to help with this process. Please see Ms. Rachael for extra tips to help your child to be successful.

Reminders & Additional Information

- Please alert us, prior to your child's first day, of **any special health concerns or allergies**. Allergies will be shared with MDO Staff and posted in the classroom.
- Please send a family photo with your child. This will be returned at the end of the school year.
- Remember to label all of your child's personal items, along with the sleeping bag. Some days are extremely busy and we can easily mix up their belongings.
- Please send your child to school in play clothes. We do use smocks for messy projects, but stains can still happen.
- Keep in mind we are right by the lake, please place a sweatshirt/coat in your child's backpack for us to use on chilly or windy days.

Thank you for entrusting your child with us this school year. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year!

Ms. Rachael

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