

THE TAN BARK TIMES

NOVEMBER 2019

Happy autumn, everyone! This season brings many changes around Kid Time. The leaves are changing, and crunching beneath our feet. The chickens are losing their old feathers, squirrels are feverishly gathering food, and the weather is brisk and cool. It is a beautiful time of year; take a few moments to experience the sights and sounds of fall with your children.

Take the day off or a long lunch break on Friday, November 22nd for our annual Thanksgiving feast. The Kid Time children will prepare an old fashioned Thanksgiving feast for you! This is a great tradition that should not be missed. You provide the ingredients and the children will cut, stir, whip, bake and mix it all. They make everything from stuffing to pumpkin pie. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the parent area for you to sign up to bring ingredients, and the children will spend the whole week cooking and preparing. The Pizza Pups and Lunch Box Kids will eat at 11:30, and the Ruff Dogs and Pork Chops will eat at 12:30. All parents are invited, so come share in the pride of your children!

The Kid Time Staff will be celebrating Thanksgiving with their families on Thursday and Friday November 28th and 29th. The center will be closed, and will reopen on Monday, December 2nd. Have a great holiday, everyone!

As we are now full swing into fall, we also soon have rain, mud and puddles in the play yard. We will be outside this winter in light rain, so rain boots and raincoats are recommended. Please leave umbrellas at home. We do not discourage the children from jumping in puddles and digging in the mud, as long as they are dressed appropriately, with boots, coats, and/or long sleeves. While the teachers have been instructed to be aware of the weather conditions, we find that the children regulate their own temperature pretty well. This is all part of the learning process, and we will be checking the

children's hands periodically outside to make sure that they are warm enough. We all run at different temperatures, and this is another way that the teachers look at the individual children to try to meet their needs. Just because I am cold does not mean that YOU need a jacket!

As promised, here is a reminder of Kid Time's health policy as stated in the "Kid Time Preschool & Child Care Policies and Procedures" handbook...

HEALTH POLICY

1. Children will not be allowed to attend any of the Kid Time, Inc. programs if any of the following conditions are present:
 - a. If a child has experienced diarrhea, fever, or vomiting within the last 24 hours.
 - b. If a child has a cold with heavy discharge and/or constant cough.
 - c. If a child has symptoms of a possible communicable disease.
 - d. If a child is unable to go outside and partake in all regular school activities.
2. Dispensing of Medication to Children
 - a. Medication will only be administered with a doctor's prescription.
NO over the counter medication will be administered without written doctors approval.
 - b. All medication must be provided in the original prescription container, with the child's name and directions attached.
 - c. A medication authorization form should be filled out by a parent.
 - d. Parents must provide all medicine to a Kid Time teacher for safekeeping. Please do not include it in the child's lunch box. The State of California requires that all medication be stored in a locked, labeled container.
3. Applying Topical Creams and Lotions to the Children
 - a. Kid Time requires a parent's and/or doctor's written consent for application of topical creams and lotions to

children, including diaper rash cream, Vaseline, Chapstick, moisturizing creams, and all other topical creams and lotions. It will be up to the Kid Time Director to necessitate a doctor's note. Such items should be given to a staff person so as to be kept out of reach of the children.

If you have questions about any of the above policies, please be sure to ask Leah.

PARENTING PARTNERS

People often ask me how I can work with children all day, especially those friends of mine who don't have children. "That must be such a hard job!" they say, and feel glad that in the office where they work no one goes potty on the floor or throws temper tantrums. Yes, it can be hard, I agree...but I don't think it is any harder than the toughest job: parenting.

As a Director, I work with the children and the staff every day. In some ways, being a Director feels like being a parent. I feel responsible for pretty much everything that goes wrong, and always feel like I am giving of myself to the children, staff and parents. Don't get me wrong, I love my job: I have realized that as a Director, much like you as a parent, I sometimes need support and assistance to do the best job I can for the kids.

You as parents do a job that is constant, around the clock, not paid, comes with no instruction manual, no help and no answers. You work whether you feel well or sick, competent or not, happy or sad. Your job never ends. If it were any other job, you would have quit a long time ago!

Your rewards are many, if not monetary (much like our staff's! Yes, we are paid, but you don't see us driving Ferraris to work☺) Your rewards are smiles, hugs, kisses, snuggles in bed on Sunday morning, unconditional love, silly songs sung to you, pictures drawn for you, and many more wonderful moments.

The most difficult part, it seems to me, about your job is, simply put, you mostly fly solo. You have to figure out for yourselves what is "normal" behavior, what you should or should not worry

about, which battles to pick and which to let lie, and countless other questions with no boss to guide you.

You have chosen to bring your child to a school that places a high value on being a community for its families. We believe that together we are better, and that we are all on the same team when it comes to raising healthy and happy children. We encourage you to interact and support each other- you can get in touch through e-mail, our parties and functions, or Facebook. Take every opportunity to talk to others and realize that you are not alone in your parental struggles and triumphs!

During a season where we reflect on what we are thankful for in our lives, I am thankful to work in a supportive environment where the staff is a team, they are behind me always, and our parents are open minded, trusting and easy to work with. I hope that you all consider yourselves as part of a community, where you can ask the teachers or myself for help, support or guidance, and where you can turn to each other when you feel that you are alone as a parent.

Please know that just because you receive the dreaded phone call from Miss Leah, or (gasp) a request for a meeting, that in and of itself that is not a negative. I want to take those opportunities to meet just to check in to be sure that we are doing all we can for the good of the children. Knowing this hopefully will make you feel more comfortable in coming to me with anything you have concerns about.

I want to take the opportunity to commend you for your dedication as parents, and appreciate how open and trusting you have been of myself and my staff. I am grateful to be a part of this community, and hope to continue to keep our lines of communication open in the years to come that your child will be at our school, and beyond!

Have a great month, and we'll see you at the feast!

Miss Leah and the Staff