

# INDIKIDS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020



## OUR CLOSED DAYS

Friday, August 14, 2020  
Monday, Sept. 7, 2020  
Friday, October 9, 2020  
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020  
November 25, 26, 27, and 30  
December 23 – 31, 2020  
Friday, January 1, 2021  
Thursday, February 4, 2021  
Friday, May 14, 2021  
Monday, May 31, 2021  
Monday, July 5, 2021  
  
Pre-K will also be closed on:  
Friday, February 12, 2021  
Friday, March 12, 2021  
Friday, April 2, 2021  
Monday, April 5, 2021

## UPCOMING

With fall quickly approaching, the weather will soon be changing. With this in mind, our **wellness check-in** will look a bit different. On days that the weather is cold or wet, the wellness check-in will be moved inside to the hallway. Everyone entering the building will be asked questions on how you and your child have been feeling and have your temperature taken. We know this can be time consuming and seem unnecessary. It is an extra step we are taking to protect all of us and we appreciate your patience.

The weather will be changing quickly as we near the end of summer. Please bring **spare clothes** appropriate for the change in temperature to put in your child's cubby basket.

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*We are striving to do all we can to keep our families safe.*

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## CONNECTING WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

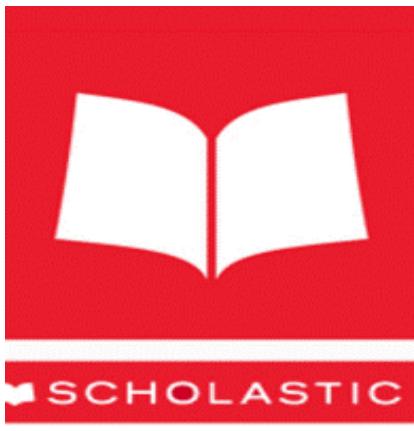
If you would wish to talk to your child's teacher about his/her day, please arrive a bit earlier. You are also able to call ahead to schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher, or simply speak to them over the phone, to have any questions or concerns answered. Keep in mind that during drop-off and pick-up times, our classrooms are not fully staffed and the teachers may not be able to give you their full attention. We understand you care about your child and want to hear how their day was. We ask that parents be respectful of our closing time by having their child signed out and in their care by 4:45, giving teachers the time they need to clean the toys that were played with throughout the day.

## SHOES

As long as the weather permits us to, we will be taking the classrooms outside to play. Each time a teacher or child leaves the classroom, they are required to change their shoes. It would be helpful for both the staff and the children if each child has shoes they are capable of putting on by themselves or with little assistance. We understand that learning how to tie shoes is important and this could be a missed learning opportunity for the children; however, children at this age are still developing their fine (small) motor skills in their fingers. Wearing shoes with velcro will allow them to strengthen the muscles in their fingers.



*Our children are doing a wonderful job wearing their masks, protecting one another. It would be helpful to have an extra mask for each child in their cubby. We have had some masks sneezed in, some chewed on, and have even had some break.*



*Remember! Book orders are due soon! Caring and Sharing orders are due on September 11<sup>th</sup> and Zephyr orders are due on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please notify a teacher if you place an order online. Pre-K will be sending out order forms soon.*

*When families order books through scholastics, using the code provided on their order form, our classrooms earn points to put towards new books for in the classrooms. Thank you for your support!*

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE CENTER

We strive to meet each child's needs and provide them with the best care that we can. We are also required to have a copy of each **child's physical and immunization records**. A Certification Representative from The Department of Human Services comes to our center (unannounced) to ensure the center has these copies. Please turn in these records as soon as possible.

## KEEPING EACH OTHER SAFE

What is something that we can all do to keep each other safe? We can stop the spread of germs by **washing our hands** often. Our staff are working with the children while they are in our care to teach proper handwashing. We ask parents to continue this learning experience while at home. For younger children, this can be taught through physically rubbing the child's hands together. For children who are older and more independent (or younger children who want to be more independent), a great way for them to learn is by watching others. So, wash your hands with them! It takes 20 seconds to properly wash your hands. It also takes about 20 seconds to sing the ABC's!

When should you wash your hands? While the children are in our care, we have them wash their hands: upon arrival, before and after they eat, after using the bathroom / after their diapers are changed, after they blow (or pick) their nose, and when they re-enter the classroom from outside.

## THINGS EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PLAY (CITED FROM NAEYC)

- Don't underestimate the value of play. Children learn and develop: cognitive skills – like math and problem solving in a pretend grocery store, physical abilities – like balancing blocks and running on the playground, new vocabulary – like the words they need to play with toy dinosaurs, social skills – like playing together in a pretend car wash, literacy skills – like creating a menu for a pretend restaurant. Play and learning go hand-in-hand. They are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child's lab.
- Play is more than meets the eye. Play is simple and complex. There are many types of play: symbolic, sociodramatic, functional, and games with rules—to name just a few. Researchers study play's many aspects: how children learn through play, how outdoor play impacts children's health, the effects of screen time on play, to the need for recess in the school day.
- Make time for play. As parents, you are the biggest supporters of your children's learning. You can make sure they have as much time to play as possible during the day to promote cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional development.
- Trust your own playful instincts. Remember as a child how play just came naturally? Give your children time for play and see all that they are capable of when given the opportunity.
- Play is a child's context for learning. Children practice and reinforce their learning in multiple areas during play. It gives them a place and a time for learning that cannot be achieved through completing a worksheet. For example, in playing restaurant, children write and draw menus, set prices, take orders, and make out checks. Play provides rich learning opportunities and leads to children's success and self-esteem.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

### THERE ARE LITTLE EYES UPON YOU

"There are little eyes upon you  
and they're watching night and day.

There are little ears that quickly  
take in every word you say.

There are little hands all eager  
to do anything you do;  
And a little boy who's dreaming  
of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol,  
you're the wisest of the wise.  
In his little mind about you  
no suspicions ever rise.

He believes in you devoutly,  
holds all you say and do;  
He will say and do, in your way  
when he's grown up just like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow  
who believes you're always right;  
and his eyes are always opened,  
and he watches day and night.

You are setting an example  
every day in all you do;  
For the little boy who's waiting  
to grow up to be just like you."

"No duty is more urgent than giving thanks." James Allen

There is a lot going on in our world today and although it is easy to get caught up in the rush of our daily to-do lists, we should take time to give thanks. I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to all of you. Thank you to the staff and administrative team for putting in place all the new guidelines and protocols to keep everyone safe and to help us open our doors again after the COVID-19 closure. Thank you to the teachers who work hard every day and plan days full of wonderful activities and exciting opportunities for the children they teach. Thank you to the children for showing us that we can change, and we can adapt. They have been absolutely wonderful wearing their masks and remembering to change from inside to outside shoes and back again. Thank you to all of you for being so patient with our daily check-ins and temperature checks and thank you for taking precautions to protect the health of all Indi Kids children, families, and staff. Most of all thank you for choosing Indi Kids and allowing us the pleasure of caring for and teaching your children. As we turn the page on another summer and look forward to what the fall season has in store, let us remember to give thanks.

Stephanie McAdoo

Director

Indi Kids