

Sun Bear Basics: 2017 - 2018



Arrival & Dismissal – We have a safe and efficient process for transitioning to and from school. For afternoon-only students, a teacher or staff person will be at the front of the building by 12:30 pm: parents should pull up to the front of school and remain in their car. If possible, please place your child's car seat on the **passenger's side** of the car. This allows us to safely unbuckle your child, get them out of the car, and escort them to the classroom or playground by hand.

At dismissal, assemble in the carpool line so teachers can put children in the cars. It is important for parents not to get out of vehicles during this process as it causes dangerous congestion in our limited thoroughway. Each family will be given a carpool sign to place in your vehicle's front windshield to help us identify you. If you need an extra sign for additional people who are picking up your child/ren or for other vehicles, please let us know.

Backpacks/Tote Bags – Children need to come to school each day with a backpack or tote bag labeled with their name. We will be using it to send home information, notes, and artwork. Rule of thumb for choosing the right size backpack: not too big for your child to safely wear or handle, not too small to carry home papers, wet/dirty clothing, etc.

Clothing – We will be very busy everyday, inside and out! Children need to wear play clothes that are comfortable and give freedom of movement. Appropriate footwear allows for running, climbing, playing in the sand and on the equipment. We will frequently use messy materials (markers, glue, paint, play-doh, etc.). While we offer smocks at the art table, clothes sometimes get stained. **On the first day of school, please send a complete extra set (or two) of clothes to school for your child, including underwear and socks.** As the seasons change, we ask you to make sure the extra clothes are weather appropriate. **All clothing, jackets, and coats should be clearly labeled with your child's name.**

Birthday Celebrations – Birthdays are a special time for four- and five-year-olds. Children are welcome to celebrate their day (or half birthday for summer birthdays) with a snack from home or an activity like bringing a favorite book. Celebrating like this is optional, feel free to do what's best for your family. As a Sun Bear class, we

will sing a happy birthday song (or two) and wish the birthday boy or girl a great day.

Snack – Each day we serve a healthy snack, which includes fresh or dried fruit and a type of cracker. Please inform us if your child develops or has a food allergy.

Communication – Our Sun Bear website page has updates on what activities are happening in the classroom (see next section). A classroom newsletter will be published approximately every two weeks. The newsletter will include classroom themes, reminders about upcoming special days, conferences, or celebrations. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year, in the fall and spring. Feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions, concerns, or insights that may enhance your child's school experience. The best way to reach us is via email, and we will be happy to schedule an additional phone call or meeting to answer questions, offer observations and give assistance. Our email addresses are: Colleen - ccorbett@wustl.edu; Katie - loyndkm@aol.com

Website – Our WUNS website (<http://nurseryschool.wustl.edu>) is an excellent resource for parents and families. The Sun Bear classroom page is found under the "Classroom" tab (<http://nurseryschool.wustl.edu/curriculum/sun-bears>). Here you will find classroom announcements and the current newsletter.

Illness – Our policy is to accept children back to school following an illness only after 24 hours free of fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting. This policy serves to protect your child from returning with a weakened immune system, as well as protecting other children from a potentially contagious illness. We thank you for your cooperation in helping keep everyone healthy and happy.

Toys at School – We understand how exciting it can be to bring a favorite toy, stuffed animal, or game to school to show friends. We also understand how frustrating and disheartening it can be to find that special something lost or broken at the end of the day. We take pride in providing a variety of interesting and appealing toys. We strongly request that children leave their personal toys at home. More often than not, toys from home tend to detract from the cooperative school atmosphere instead of enhancing children's interest in creative play.

We are excited to start a wonderful year of adventures in the Sun Bear Classroom. Thank you for all you do to support us and your child!

~Katie & Colleen

