

Teddy Bear Basics: 2020 - 2021



Before Arrival - Parents will screen their child(ren) for various symptoms related to coronavirus and take their temperature(s) daily. Our school will utilize the digital **PikMyKid app** (<https://www.pikmykid.com/>). The daily health screening **must** be completed by a parent before a student can enter the school. Please use the bathroom/change diaper or Pull-up before arriving at school. Please apply sunscreen to your child as licensing does not allow us to apply it without a doctor's note. We will go outside each day weather permitting. Feel free to bring sun hats and sunglasses.

Carpool: Arrival & Dismissal – Safety is our number one priority. We have a secure and efficient process for transitioning to and from school. For your child's safety please do not use your cell phone in the carpool line.

Arrival – Arrival begins at 8:50 a.m. When a parent arrives with a student, a staff member will verify the parent has completed the online health screening and will use a touchless infrared thermometer to take the student's temperature. The parent will assist the student out of the car (unbuckle and remove the child from the car seat) and meet the teacher. The teacher will also do a visual inspection of the child at this time. Parents and children must wear a mask.

Dismissal - We ask that parents/caregivers arrive at 11:35 am to ensure the Teddy Bears are dismissed first. Parents/caregivers will use the **PikMyKid app** to announce their arrival. Our class will assemble at the covered patio outside our room. The teacher will walk the student to the parent waiting outside of their car. Parents must be wearing a mask. Parents should safely and quickly load and buckle their child into the car seat. Please refrain from offering a snack or other item that will hold up the car line. Cars will exit the car line when a staff member signals.

What to bring:

- **Backpack/Tote Bag** – Children may bring a backpack or tote bag labeled with their name. We will be using it to send home information, wet/dirty clothing, 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, clothing, etc. Consider something that is washable or easy to wipe down.
- **Clothing** – We will be very busy every day, 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, etc.). While we offer smocks at the art table, clothes sometimes get stained. **On the first day of school, please send two complete extra sets of clothes to school for your child, including tops, bottoms, an extra mask, socks, underwear and/or diapers, and wipes.** Licensing does not allow teachers to apply diaper creams without a doctor's note. As the seasons change, we ask you to make sure the extra clothes are weather appropriate. **All clothing, jackets, coats, gloves, and hats should be clearly labeled with your child's name.**

- **Water bottle**— Teddy Bears will keep their water bottles in their cubbies and use throughout the day and at snack. Please label with your child's name. When choosing a water bottle, please be sure it fits your child's hands, can be used independently, non-breakable, washable, and leak/drip proof. Please practice using the water bottle with your child prior to school.

Birthday Celebrations— Birthdays are a special time for two- and three-year-olds. Children are welcome to celebrate their day (or half birthday for summer birthdays) with a **store-bought, nut free** snack. Please drop the snack off at morning carpool. As a Teddy Bear class, we will sing a happy birthday song and wish the birthday boy or girl a great day. Teachers will take pictures/videos of these special moments to share with you.

Snack – Each day we serve a healthy snack, which includes fresh or dried fruit and a type of cracker. Children will wash hands before and after snack and sit at his/her designated sanitized table. The children will drink from their personal water bottle which will come home daily for washing. Please inform us if your child develops or has a food allergy.

Communication – Our Teddy Bear website page and digital app **Seesaw for Schools** 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 Zoom meeting to answer questions, offer observations and give assistance. Our email addresses are: Chona – chonacarson@yahoo.com; Katie – loyndkm@aol.com

Website – Our WUNS website (<http://nurseryschool.wustl.edu>) is an excellent resource for parents and families which includes our calendar, upcoming events, pictures, parent resources, etc. The Teddy Bear classroom page is found under the "Classroom" tab. Here you will find classroom announcements and the current newsletter.

Illness – Follow all COVID-19 procedures in the Return to School plan and school handbook to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Our policy is to welcome children back to school following an illness only after 24 hours free of fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting (without medicine). 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 comforting or exciting it can be to bring a favorite toy, blanket, or lovey to school. We request that children leave **all** personal blankets, loveys, toys at home to minimize the spread of germs in our classroom. 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 take pride in providing a wide variety of interesting and appealing toys.

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

~Katie, Chona, and Elisa

