

Dear Parent,

In order to create a positive atmosphere for your child at school, here are a few items to note and some suggestions:

Transition from Home to School

The following are some ways you can help your child with this transition:

- On the first day of school, allow yourself extra time for getting ready, out the door and to school. (If you are feeling tense or rushed, it will be contagious.)
- Initiate arrival routines, such as joining in the morning gathering with your child or arriving early to read a book together before class begins.
- Inform staff of issues or concerns your child might be dealing with that may complicate the transition, such as a troubled night of sleep or an illness in the family.
- Always say goodbye.
- Be both friendly and firm when it is time for you to leave. (Confidence is also contagious.) Teachers are available to help smooth the transition as the child says goodbye, make contact with staff for support.
- Be on-time for pick-up.
- Initiate departure routines, such as gathering materials from your child's cubby and saying good-bye to the teachers and the other children.

Your Child Will Get Messy

Your child (and the teacher) will get messy in this program. Clothing will often reflect your child's exploration (play) and investigation of various materials, including washable paint, dirt, play dough, water, etc.

Bev Bos, a noted preschool educator, says, "If it hasn't been in the hand, it cannot be in the brain." Play is the essential aspect of a child's cognitive development. Consequently, we ask that you send your child in comfortable "play" clothes.

Extra Clothing

On the first day of school, a cubby will be available for storing your child's extra clothing. Please send a set of extra clothes, in a large zip lock bag, to school. If your child is in diapers, please provide a bag with extra diapers and wipes as well. Be sure your child's name is on the clothes as well as the bag(s).

We look forward to working with your child.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,
The Bright Days Staff

Tips on Making a Smooth Transition From Home to School