

Park West

Cooperative
Nursery
School

Little Link

Information for families



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3pm

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Hello everyone! We are finishing up our separation process and starting our second full week of school together. We wanted to remind everyone that separation is a *process* and that some days may still be hard. Even if your child is having a wonderful experience and loves school there still may be times when saying goodbye to mom, dad, or a beloved care-taker will be teary or drawn out. We have found that talking through when you will see each other again can help, as well as reassuring your child that Chris and Ali will be there to play with them and take care of them. Thank you for all of the accommodations you made to participate in our separation process. We know that taking time off work and finding sitters for siblings can be very difficult and we appreciate everyone being flexible and working with us.

We want to explain a couple of things about our classroom. You may have noticed that some of our set-up seems to be a little sparse, our art shelf in particular. We have just a few things set out now, markers, scissors, stampers and ink, and crayons. This is intentional. We think introducing tools and materials to our art shelf over time helps children to be successful in creating projects with a variety of supplies they have had time to explore and understand. We will have projects on our large art table that will introduce a material and give kids a chance to experiment with it before leaving it on the shelf for them to access on their own.

This week we will be working with colored tape. Tape provides an interesting challenge for children. In order to be successful with a taping project, one must be able to go through a multitude of steps. First, she must be able to pull the tape from the reel, and then she must figure out a way to sever the piece from the rest of the roll, and finally must affix the tape to the paper. There will be some people who will have few problems with this process, while there will be others for whom it will be extraordinarily frustrating. How many times have you

been trying to use a large piece of tape only to have it get tangled and stuck to itself? If we have a group of children all working through similar frustrations at the same time, our goal will be to refer children to each other as they are working through the process. For example, if one child is struggling to figure out how to cut their piece of tape from the roll, we will be able to say, "Oh, I see that Jill found a way to cut her tape. Let's ask her what she did." After a week of having tape on our art table we will move it to the shelf where it will be accessible to children as they are coming up with their own projects.

Also, we change materials in our classroom on a weekly basis. We will leave dinosaurs in the sand, measuring cups in the water table, playdough on the table, etc. for a week at a time. We think this allows children a chance to explore the environment in a more relaxed way. They do not need to try everything in one day. If they didn't make it over to the tactile table on the first day, the material will be there again the next time they come back to school. Our hope is that having materials for a few days will allow children to get creative in their exploration. We will often add a component to the material half way through the week with the goal of extending play.

We are at the start of a wonderful journey together. The beginning of the year is full of possibility, excitement, and a lot of hard work to understand a new place and with different expectations. We are looking forward to getting to know each of you, your children, and building our class as community of people who will work and grow together. Remember, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns throughout the year! Also, we are trying something new this year. We will be sending a note home every couple weeks to give you a little update about how your child is at school, what s/he is interested in, who s/he is playing with, etc. We are hoping that they will give you a little insight into how things are going in the classroom. We are trying this because often times at arrival and dismissal we miss opportunities to chat and fill you in because it tends to get so busy!

Best,

Chris + Ali