Dear Parents,

Many parents happily enroll their child in BioKids, in part, because of our co-op program – what a wonderful opportunity to participate in a child’s classroom without a scheduled commitment of time, with the flexibility of banking hours as well as going in-the-hole a bit, and a sense of being involved somehow in the workings of a child’s everyday environment. In addition to the regularly calendared things that need to be done to help our classroom run smoothly (laundry, fresh playdough, washing sippy-cups, grocery shopping, etc.) I try and include parents in other aspects of BioKids: Teacher Appreciation, handyman services, helping me with challenging computer needs, playground maintenance, etc.

I know that sometimes it can be a drag to get those email pleas for last minute help with grocery shopping or staff-meeting coverage, and I greatly, greatly appreciate your willingness to help by stepping in at the last minute or signing up in advance. But, unfortunately, I just can’t keep track of who does what all the time – laundry gets forgotten on a Friday and someone other than the intended family picks it up and graciously does it and who did end up picking up the cups and running them through their dishwasher when the family that originally planned on it had a sick child, etc.?

It is really important that, if you want credit for the co-op work you do, you enter your time on the Log Sheet posted on the Preschool Room bulletin board. Some families are running up rather steep balances, which, if they are accurate, is one thing, but if they are inaccurate it is just more difficult to adjust them as time goes by. (“I know I signed up for such-and-such, but, hmmm, did I really do it? I just

Thank You

Thank you parents for all the wonderful support you demonstrated to our staff during Teacher Appreciation Week! It is more than just a name, the teachers truly do enjoy the week and the recognition.
Vacation Plans and Beyond!

Please update our vacation schedule list in the Preschool Room as your summer travel plans solidify. Along the same lines, if your child will be leaving for kindergarten this Fall, please let us know when you have decided upon your child’s last day at BioKids.

Knowing how many children will be away at any given time allows us to staff appropriately; it also facilitates moving children from the Infant/Toddler Room into the Preschool Room as well as enrolling children from our waiting list. Sometimes we have a week or two during the summer when we have only 14 children at BioKids – the perfect time for a staff member to take a break without needing to find (and having BioKids pay for) a substitute.

Robin’s Nest continued...

Let me say again and always how much the staff and I appreciate the work you do as a co-opping parent! Really … one Monday morning I spent hours doing all the Preschool Room sheets and blankets and it cost over $20 at a local laundry-mat for the convenience of using multiple washers and dryers (I was in a hurry to get them all back to BioKids in time for nap so couldn’t simply take them home).

You can indeed “buy” your co-op hour obligation each month at $10/hour ($40 or $50 a month, depending if you have one or two children enrolled at BioKids). In-the-hole hours are charged at $10 as well. Please check your balances on the tally sheet and let me know if you think there is a discrepancy; or you can contact Jeff (Zachary and Tyler’s dad) who translates the information from the Log Sheet to the Balance Sheet. He can be reached at Jeffrey.Stirling@zionsbank.com

If you really do owe all that money, feel free to “pay-up” and I will include your payment as a donation on your monthly statement.

Ahh – and you thought I’d be writing about something educational! Well, while googling with my morning coffee I did come across this video about “executive function skills” in early childhood that you may find interesting: http://www.familiesandwork.org/

Thanks,

Robin

If you want credit for the co-op work you do, enter your time on the Log Sheet posted on the Preschool Room bulletin board.
Sunscreen Reminder

We will apply sunscreen to Preschool Room children before going outside in the afternoon; please slather your child before coming to school in the morning so they are protected for our morning outside time. If you prefer that we use a specific product on your child in the afternoon be sure to provide a labeled bottle to the teachers.

In the Infant/Toddler Room, teachers apply sunscreen in the morning as well as the afternoon. Again, if you want your child to only use a specific brand, please supply a bottle or tube.

You may wonder why we don’t put sunscreen on the Preschoolers in the mornings. It is complicated enough in the morning to just get all of the children to use the toilet before going outside, let alone take a staff member out of the mix to apply sunscreen. It takes 30-45 minutes to apply it to all the children and can easily be done as children are waking up from nap.

Hello and Good-bye

We welcome Tala and Lila (finally, some girls!) into the Infant/Toddler Room and Rowen as well as Otis into the Preschool Room. We also welcome Sahana in the Preschool Room. Our up-coming kindergarteners are starting to take leave ...

Summer Playground Party

It’s almost time for our annual BioKids Birthday Party Bash –Friday, August 2nd, 4:15-5:30 on the Bio-Kids playground. If you’d like to help with the organization and get some co-op credit, speak up! We’ll have the pony, refreshments, face painting and all the usual fun! It’s a great time for parents to mingle and children to play.

Lost... Found

We have found a black Bolle brand ski helmet, size small (adult, we think, since it fits a BioKids staff member). Is it yours? We are growing tired of having it taking up room in our Preschool Room. It was found about a month ago sitting on the heating unit just outside the Infant/Toddler Room.