

## Early Learning Center-North Quincy News

September 2019 Edition



### **"Fall" Back into Classroom Routines**

Dear Families,

Welcome to the new school year at the Early Learning Center-North Quincy. For those of you that are new to our Center, a hearty welcome to you and your child! For those returning, welcome back for another exciting and engaging year! We anticipate a great year as your child learns and develops skills that will prepare him/her for school success and beyond!

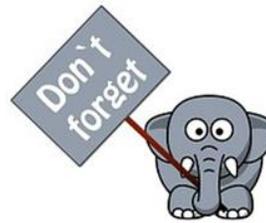
As you drop your child off at the ELC-North Quincy each day you may wonder about the structure of their day. As with many aspects of early childhood, routine and predictability are crucial and at the heart of it all lays the opportunities for children to play, explore, and learn together. The first weeks of school can be challenging for both child and parent however we can ensure we will do all we can at the ELC -North Quincy to make this transition seamless and successful for all!

Our Center has an open-door policy for parents. You are also welcome to call us anytime during your child's day and we will let you know how they are doing. Calling at nap time will ensure that you are getting your child's educators full attention.

In each of our classrooms, the sequence of daily activities will be slightly different but will follow a predictable routine. Please take a look at the classroom's daily schedule that is posted on the Family Board. Your child will have opportunities to initiate activities: build a tower with blocks, cut out shapes, and

paint at an easel. There will also be activities led by the teacher such as learning a new song or listening to a story. Educators at the Early Learning Center-North Quincy will collaborate, and plan daily activities to ensure that each child's developmental needs are met as interests are explored through curriculum planning as well as teachable moments! Scheduled into the daily routine at the ELC-North Quincy also include outdoor time and motor skill building in the Kid Zone. It is our goal to help all children grow into well-rounded, healthy learners.

Please visit our Staff board located between the Preschool 1 & 2 classrooms!



**Reminder: Be mindful when dropping off your child/children at the Center. Please drive carefully and cautiously as children are exiting cars. Thank you for your cooperation!**

### **ELC-North Quincy Items to Remember**

Life is very busy for young families and there are certainly many things to remember as you prepare for each day. Here are a few essential items that will help make your child's transition to the ELC-North Quincy easier.

- Please remember our ELC has a maximum of childcare for up to 10 hours per day.
- Please remember to label everything with your child's first and last name.
- Pack a seasonably appropriate change of clothes to be left at school

in your child's cubby (per EEC state regulation).

- A steady supply of underwear, pull-ups, diapers, and wipes, is important for teachers to have on hand. Please ask your child's teacher for guidance on what to bring (and what to leave in your child's cubby!).
- **ALLERGIES:** In order to provide a safe environment for all we want to remind all families that we are a **nut free, egg free (hard boiled scrambled etc.) and fish free (including fish oils) Center.** To promote independence, pack lunches that are ready to eat and include packaging that is easy for a child to open. See your child's teacher and/or Family Guide for suggestions!

### **Birthday Celebrations:**

On occasions such as birthday celebrations and class parties, **we request that there be no food options due to the many allergies in the center and want to be respectful to all children when celebrating.** You may want to consider donating a book in your child's name to classroom library, providing a favorite library book you have chosen with your child for teachers to read or providing a favorite children's art and craft activity. Some other options maybe a little party bag with items from the dollar store or little balloons.

**Please check with your child's teacher prior to an event to discuss your child's celebration!**



### **ELC Best Practices and Policies**



As we begin a new school year with new friends, families and teachers it is a great time to send out a few reminders about the ELC's best practices and policies to maintain a safe and efficient early childhood center. If you have a question/concern, please ask! Working together is the best way to help your child.

- ✓ ELC is a locked building at all times. All enrolled families and staff have key fobs to access the building. **Please do not hold the door open for others.** Visitors should be encouraged to ring the doorbell and wait for an ELC staff person to answer. Remember, this policy is not rude, it's safety.
- ✓ **If your child will be late (after 9:00am) or absent, please call or email the Center to inform us of their absence.** We will call you and to inquire about your child if we are not aware of their planned absence. If we are unable to contact you, we will call your child's authorized contacts. In the spirit of child safety, if we have exhausted all efforts (unable to make contact) we will contact the local police department for a well-child check (please see Family Guide).
- ✓ Families are welcome to call the Center during rest time daily (1:00-2:30pm) to inquire about their child.



### **Early Learning Center -North Quincy Open House will be on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 6pm-7:30pm!**

Please come and meet our teaching staff and the families in your child's classroom...more information to come!

### **ELC-North Quincy Family Advisory Council:**

We look forward to developing our Family Advisory Council later this fall and hope you will consider joining! Some of the responsibilities of the **FAC** may include:

- A time commitment of one hour every other month during the school year.

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- Assistance with fundraising efforts for our Annual Giving Day, May 2020
- Advising ELC-NQ leadership to ensure we are addressing the diverse needs of our YMCA community.
- Ways to ensure the best in Early Childhood Education.
- Helping with networking opportunities with other community organizations whose mission aligns with our South Shore YMCA.



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Your child's class will be participating in Class Dojo! Class Dojo is a tool used by teachers to share moments from your child's day via a free mobile app on your smart phone or iPad (you can also use your desktop computer). Once you sign up you will be able to see private pictures and messages about your child's day and learn what the class is working on. You will see pictures of your child throughout their day at the ELC with their teachers and other children. Your teacher's Class Dojo site is private with each family receiving an individual code to access your account. If you should choose not to participate, that's okay! Please note that children who will not be participating will not appear in any Class Dojo Photos.

**We encourage families to sign-up for our Class Dojo app. Here you will be able to see what activities your child is engaged in while here at the Early Learning Center-North Quincy as well as receive center notifications such as special pajama days, dress-up days, school closing, etc.**



Get Important Updates from ELC-North Quincy via the Remind Text Messaging App

Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps teachers share important updates and reminders with students and parents. Subscribe by text, email or using the Remind app. All personal information is kept private. ELC staff will never see your phone number, nor will you see ours.

To join and receive information about emergency closures due to inclement weather and other reminders, text the following message @b6e3kk to the number 81010

OR

If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

<https://www.remind.com/join/rmd.at/b6e3kk>

Please feel free to contact Jojo Reed and/or Marlana Caruso with any questions. We value your feedback!

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