**Penny Lane Summer Newsletter 2020**

Summer is here! We would like to welcome back new and returning families. We want to inform you about things happening at both Penny Lane centers. Our lives have changed over the last several months due to the pandemic we are all experiencing. I want to reassure everyone that we continue to follow state and CDC guidelines with our COVID-19 policy. Specific requirements can be challenging, so please be patient with us while we work through them. Our main goal is to keep children, staff, and families as safe as possible. This includes continued hand washing practices, temperature checks, not permitting toys/items from home, and washing all bedding items daily. We are also sanitizing toys and equipment daily; therefore, we ask that your child be in attendance no longer than your current work hours. Following these guidelines prevents our facilities from shortening our hours of operation to ensure that proper sanitation takes place.

**COVID-19 UPDATES**

To help us overcome these challenging times, Penny Lane has received several grant funds from (FSSA) state and Early Learning Indiana. If it was not for these funds, we may not have survived through this period. This has allowed us to not charge families while not attending either center. It has assisted us with paying staff, purchasing supplies, rent, utilities, etc.- Helping us operate as best as we can. Both Penny Lane centers have also recently received additional grant funding from Early Learning Indiana. We are **“Come Back Stronger”** grant recipients. These funds are to help assist in improving our health and safety practices. This includes, but no limited to; additional toys/items for classrooms to rotate and assure they are cleaned/sanitized properly before returning to the classrooms, handwashing sinks installed, more soap dispensers and sanitizing stations throughout each center to help the spread of germs. These items are just the beginning of changes happening. We will keep you updated as we improve our health and safety procedures.

**CHILDCARE FEES**

As most of you know, our childcare fees were due to increase this year; however, this was postponed due to the pandemic challenges for families. Rates will increase on August 1, 2020. Infants/toddlers and two-year-old fees will increase $2.00 a day; a total increase of $10.00 weekly or $40.00 monthly. Preschool/Pre-K fees will increase $1.00 a day; a total increase of $5.00 weekly or $20.00 monthly. We apologize for any inconvenience; however, our fees have not increased in over four years. We can assure you that our mission at Bloomington Day Care Corp (dba) Penny Lane is to stay competitive as financially possible within Monroe and surrounding counties while maintaining our Accreditation and PTQ Level 4 requirements.



Both centers have been working on the renewal of **NAEYC Accreditation,** (*National Accreditation for the Education of Young Children)*. The guidelines and criteria to meet the goals of accreditation can sometimes be quite challenging. Our staff works extremely hard to ensure that we meet the required standards, but also understands that there is always room for improvements. Please let us know if you have any questions about the accreditation process.

**Staff Updates**

With several places closing down, Penny Lane has acquired new children. As most of you know, childcare is essential, and we have continued to stay open for families through this pandemic. We cannot express how hard it has been working through this pandemic, and we are still going strong. Please make sure you let teachers know how much they are appreciated. Several staff have delayed their return to work, or have chosen not to return, or have decided to move on to something else. This has required both centers to add more teaching staff. You may be seeing staff members that we hope you take the time to meet and introduce yourselves if you get the opportunity.

**Sick Policy**

With the Covid-19 virus state requirements, our sick policy MUST be followed with a few changes. Any child with illness symptoms or a temperature of 100.4, must be symptom-free for at least 24 hours or return with a doctor’s note stating they are not contagious. Please help us follow these new policy guidelines to ensure everyone’s safety, including our staff.

**Weather/Vacations**

We will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.

If you are able to take a vacation or time off, please let us know as soon as possible. This helps us with summer staffing schedules as well.

We continue to go outside daily, weather permitting. Please make sure that your child has sunscreen and **Deet free** bug spray if needed. You must complete required medication/consent forms for anything administered to your child. Water bottles and extra clothes are also needed for each child.

**Transitions/Classroom Move-Ups**

Classroom transitions will occur towards the end of August. Our fall semester will begin, and most children will be moving into a different classroom. We will provide detailed information at a later time.

**Curriculum**

We continue trying to make children’s summer fun, yet a learning experience. Summer calendars are available for you to view our weekly focus. This allows you to be engaged with your child’s learning experiences as much as possible while we follow social distancing requirements.

I also want to encourage all parents to utilize the **BLOOMZ App.** Classrooms are still working on this form of communication so that you can virtually see what is going on in your child’s classroom. If you need any assistance, please let the teacher know.

**Pre-K Graduation**

We want to congratulate all PreK students moving on to Kindergarten. Because of the pandemic, we will not be able to have our Pre-K graduation ceremony this year. We are still working on Graduation diplomas, which will be awarded soon, along with their portfolios.



**Website/Facebook Info** Visit the website for updated information:

<http://www.pennylanechildcare.net>. Also, “Like” us on Facebook for current events, activities, and information.