



Early Childhood Program Handbook 2023-2024

Hummingbird Pre-K Class
Acorn Pre-K Class
Honeybee Pre-K Class
Sunflower Pre-K Class
Rainbow Kindergarten Class
Sunrise Kindergarten Class

Detroit Waldorf School
Early Childhood Program Handbook

Table Of Contents

3	Philosophy Statement
3	Early Childhood environment
3	Rhythm
4	Media
4	Arrival and Departure
5	Extended Care
6	Food
6	Snacks
6	Lunch
7	Clothing
8	Rest Time
8	Toys and Personal Items
8	Emergency and Health Forms
8	Health and Illness, Medication, Accident
10	Communication and Attendance
10	Class Meetings
11	Parent-Teacher Conferences
11	Behavior Guidelines in the Early Childhood Program
11	Emergency Closing
11	Fire, Tornado and Shelter in Place Drills
11	Annual School Calendar
12	Festivals and Assemblies
12	School Newsletter
12	Volunteers
12	Class Trips
12	Pet Policy
12	Lost and Found
13	Quick Guide Who to Call for What
13	Recommended Reading

WELCOME TO THE DETROIT WALDORF SCHOOL!

It is our hope that you will discover for yourselves, as well as for your children, the richness and depth of the community that surrounds us here at the Detroit Waldorf School.

There are many practical details in school life covered in this handbook to assist you as a parent or guardian. Families are a vital part of our undertaking as an educational community and we invite your questions and your active participation in the work of the Detroit Waldorf School.

Philosophy Statement

The fundamental ideal upon which Waldorf education rests is that it is the birthright of every child to develop their full human potential: for clear, creative thought and expression; balance and compassion in feeling; and conscience and initiative in action. We believe that education is the process of "bringing forth" from the Latin *educare*, to lead out, rather than putting in, and thus it is that the Waldorf curriculum builds on the child's natural curiosity, sense of wonder and love of learning. These seeds are the basis of an education which fosters the development of a free-thinking, moral human being who can impart purpose and direction to his or her life.

"Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able, in themselves, to impart purpose and direction to their lives." Rudolf Steiner

Early Childhood

A Waldorf early childhood environment is designed to allow for the gentle unfolding of a child's development. During these early years, children learn through imitation. Carefully chosen activities provide opportunities for modeling and direction. Movement is foundational to learning. Both large motor and fine motor skills are encouraged through play and practical living activities. Through the first seven years of life young children wish to be part of everything grownups do. In a Waldorf Preschool and Kindergarten the children are involved in activities in which the teacher is a model of meaningful movements and purposeful use of language. The children joyfully imitate the daily work of sweeping, gardening, washing, cooking and caring for the environment, themselves and their community of friends.

Our Early Childhood Center program offers classes for children from three through six years of age. These include 3 and 5 day Pre-School classes and 5 day kindergarten classes.

Rhythm

From the moment of birth a child's life is regulated by rhythm, for example, breathing in and breathing out, and sleeping and waking. We are surrounded by rhythm in nature: day and night; the days of the week, the monthly moon phases, and the seasons of the year. When children experience a healthy rhythm their lives are filled with security and discipline.

In the Children's Center a strong weekly rhythm provides a sense of structure which is familiar yet varied. We are also guided by daily and seasonal rhythms that manifest in activities that provide this security for the child. The children engage in imaginative play, painting, cooking, baking, gardening, woodworking, drawing, beeswax, sewing, circle and story time. In this atmosphere of beauty and rhythm the teacher works to cultivate the healthy development of the child. Activities move from active to focused, calm to active. This provides an in-breathing and out-breathing, a sense of expansion and contraction. This balanced pulse can feel reassuring to a child. Families can help to nurture health and a sense of security with a rhythmic life for their child at home. The use of morning, mealtime and bedtime routines will help to create a rich and harmonious childhood and support and strengthen the work of the Children's Center.

Media

There is ever increasing research confirming that electronic screens and media in all forms affect the physical, social and emotional development of children regardless of the content, or the time given to it. We have found that its influence significantly interferes with what Waldorf Early Childhood education has to offer the young child. As educators, parents and guardians we have an important stake in this concern: the healthy growth and development of the children in our care. The Waldorf curriculum is multi-sensorial by nature and is designed to assist the children in developing healthy sight, hearing, smell, touch and movement, all of which are of critical importance to developing thinking. For that reason, the faculty of the Detroit Waldorf School refrains from exposing the children to electronic technologies in the school. At DWS, we cherish and endeavor to protect your child's early life experiences, for this is a time to grow and learn through creative activity, first hand experiences of nature, purposeful work, imaginative play and social integration.

We do recognize the role electronic devices play in communication with loved ones. To otherwise enhance your child's development, we suggest that you eliminate electronic media from their life, including television, videos, movies, headphones, cds, computers and computer games, iPad and similar devices along with virtual reality devices. For those families who have made this choice, we appreciate the many challenges such a decision involves. For those parents who are confronting this issue, we are interested in being of help and support in any way that we can.

The quality of your child's school experience depends on your judgment in this matter, and supporting the school in your home life. Please refer to the reading list at the end of this handbook for sources of information on this subject.

As adults, we use our cell phones and similar electronic devices to make our work more convenient and productive. However, we also have become somewhat unconscious about the effect that the use of these devices may have on others. **Please turn cell phones off/airplane mode or to vibrate while inside the school or on the campus grounds and refrain from answering or making calls while on campus except in the office or the community room.**

Arrival and Departure

From 8:15-8:30 am, all students need to enter through the Main entrance (Pre-K), or the Fallen Log entrance (Kindergarten) and will then be supervised by a teacher or staff member in the Outdoor classrooms.

The day begins at 8:30 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Pick up time is from 3-3:30 pm. Half-day program hours are 8:30 am-12:00 pm. Classroom teachers record the day's attendance at 8:30 am. Families arriving after 8:30 am need to go to the front office to sign in so that their presence is known and attendance status properly recorded.

Please bring your child at least a few minutes earlier so that they may feel more comfortable and ready to join us when it is time to begin each morning. Whether your child's class begins indoors or out, having them start the day together as a group helps establish a healthy rhythm. Late arrival makes it difficult for children to find their place within the group and the rhythm of the day.

Please call the school if your child will be late or absent for any reason.

State licensing requires that every parent or guardian walk their child to the playground and sign their child in on the daily sign-in sheet for the Early Childhood Community. Please remember to sign your child in when you arrive and sign them out before you depart. The signature of a parent, guardian or authorized person is required. Children may not sign in or out even with parental permission or supervision.

If there are changes in pick-up arrangements or times or to lunch or nap, **please contact both the class teacher and the front office to provide this information** in the morning. If your child is arriving late or leaving early, they must be signed in or out in the front office.

The school also maintains a list of people that you authorize to pick-up your child. Please update it as soon as possible in your RenWeb Parent portal when there are changes so that we can alert teachers or substitutes. In an effort to safeguard all children, we may request to see identification before releasing a child to anyone.

Important note on pick-up: Please be prompt. Your tardiness can cause stress and worry for your child and there are additional fees assessed for late pick-up.

In an effort to assist our teachers supervising afternoon dismissal recess and extended care we request your attention to a few pick-up procedures so that we can most effectively attend to the well-being and safety of the children in our care. Children play outside in the afternoon from 2:30-3:30. Pick-up is from 3:00 to 3:30.

Upon arrival of parents, other family members, or caregivers between 3:00 and 3:30 please sign your child out and exit the playground. Timely exit from the playground will improve our ability to supervise children for whom we continue to remain responsible and reduce confusing or conflicting directions from teachers and parents. Please ask aftercare staff to step in to address any behaviors, physical, verbal or safety related, that you observe.

Please do not leave children on the playground to play once you have signed them out while you pick-up other students on the graders playground, in the building or attend to other business. Take your child with you once you have signed them out.

Between 3:30 and 5:30 pm during extended care, upon arrival parents, other family members or caregivers please sign your child out and then exit the playground. Visiting with our extended care staff also detracts from their ability to attend to the children in their care and we respectfully request that greetings and any necessary updates on children be kept brief.

Should children be indoors due to weather conditions, please come to the main door to enter and wait or visit with other parents in the hallway while a teacher helps your child to clean up their toys or activity materials and brings them to the door to meet you. This will help reduce congestion and sound in the room, and also minimize the resistance that frequently arises to leaving in a timely manner.

Should you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Extended Care

For the convenience of parents, the school provides an extended care program that is supervised by our teachers and staff. Extended care is available from 3:30 to 5:30 pm for early childhood and 3:30 to 5:30 pm for first through eighth grades. Any child on campus at 3:30 is automatically signed into extended care. Advance registration is not required at this time.

From 3:30-5:30 the cost is \$6.00 per hour (or any portion thereof) for the first child and \$4.00 for additional siblings. A late pick-up fee of \$1.00 per minute will be assessed for children remaining in extended care after 5:30pm. Billing for this program occurs monthly.

The extended care phone number is 313-303-1460.

Children must be under adult supervision at all times during the school day. If children are at school after regular school hours, they are required to sign up for extended care. For your child's safety, please do not ask your child to wait outside the gate or anywhere in the building other than with the special program staff after regular school hours.

We ask any parent or guardian who is doing volunteer work for an event and stays after regular school hours to sign your child(ren) into extended care. Fees will be waived in honor of your time here. Simply fill out a volunteer form, have it signed by the administrator or event coordinator and turn it in to the front office.

Food

If you have questions regarding nutrition and your child, please ask your child's teachers.

Snacks

Snack time is an important part of our morning and we provide a snack with wholesome, mainly organic ingredients. Snacks are arranged in a weekly rhythm and include such things as cooked whole grains, homemade bread, vegetables and fruit. The snacks are prepared fresh each morning. This will not, however, replace a nourishing, unhurried breakfast at home before arriving at the Early Childhood Center.

Drinking water is available throughout the day.

Lunch

Children who stay the full day need to bring a substantial lunch from home. We encourage the inclusion of simple, healthy, hearty lunches, snacks and drinks for your child. Some suggestions include sandwiches, soup, leftovers, yogurt, vegetables, fruit, and cheese. **Please do not send processed foods, "Lunch-ables," candy, gum and soda and other sugary drinks, chips, chocolate coated granola bars and other desserts.**

Also note that we are unable to provide refrigeration and do not have the ability to heat up lunch items for individual children, therefore, as appropriate, please provide an ice pack for perishable items or thermos for heated foods in your child's lunch. Reusable containers whenever possible are encouraged.

Food for lunch or snacks may be purchased from classes holding fundraisers during the year for those wishing to order them; however, children may still need additional vegetables, fruit, yogurt or similar items to sustain them. Parents will be notified when there are pre-order sign-up sheets available online in the Renweb Parent portal.

Note: Some children in your child's class may have food sensitivities (from mild intolerances to life threatening allergies); please keep this in mind when packing your child's lunch as even being in proximity to certain foods, like peanuts and peanut butter may trigger an allergic reaction in some children.

Currently NO peanuts or products that contain peanuts may be brought to school for snacks, lunches or other occasions.

Uneaten lunch will be sent home with the child so that you can monitor the food that your child is actually consuming.

Birthdays in the Early Childhood Center are very special. Your child's teacher will arrange the details for your child's birthday with you.

Clothing

*****PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS CLEARLY*****

Our Early Childhood program provides an active environment. *Comfortable, natural fiber, play clothes will allow children maximum participation and movement for indoor and outdoor activities.*

- It is important that your child is dressed for the weather appropriately when they arrive at school.
- We believe that warmth is of the utmost importance to support the young child's health and well being.
- Natural fibers allow the child's body to breathe properly and be kept warm. •

Each morning the children may be out of doors for up to an hour.

- Please dress your child in clothing that covers arms and legs at the start of the day.
- Layering is very helpful. Please dress your child in layers which should always include an undershirt.
- Extra layers can always be taken off as the day grows warmer. Layering a short sleeve over a long sleeve in the colder months or a long sleeve over a short sleeve in warmer weather is very helpful.
- Leggings or tights provide a sense of protection for vigorous outdoor play. .

When laying out your child's clothes in the evening, please also choose apparel in keeping with the school dress code. Generally, clothes should be neat, in good taste and in accordance with school activities. Clothes, lunch boxes and book bags should **not** display media messages or pictures such as superheroes, Disney characters, cartoon characters, large logos or advertising, movie or rock group T shirts as they can influence the play and attentiveness of the children in a group setting. In order to reduce sunburns, no tank tops, mid-riff or halter tops, spaghetti straps or short shorts. Pants must fit at the waist and not drag on the ground so that children can move freely. Likewise, please avoid blinking, jingling or otherwise distracting accessories, shoes, shirts, jewelry and make-up.

Raincoats, rain pants and rubber boots are necessary for dewy mornings, as well as, rainy days. Depending on the season, sun or warm hats are needed for everyday wear.

In winter, hats, scarves, warm coats, mittens, snow pants and warm, lined boots are necessary.

Each child will need a pair of sturdy "indoor" shoes, which will be kept at school. These shoes should permit good heel-toe movement, be flexible, and provide support. Check with your child's teacher if you have any further questions about what type of shoes are most appropriate. Please remember to recheck your child's shoe size throughout the year. Little feet grow remarkably fast! Children will need outdoor shoes when boots are not needed.

Please provide 1-2 complete change(s) of clothing for your child that will remain at school until needed. Please include an undershirt, shirt, underwear, pants, leggings or skirt, 2 or more sets of socks or tights. It is helpful if you replace any items sent home for laundering as soon as possible and switch them seasonally. Items need to be labeled with your child's name and placed in a small box.

Rest Time

Children enrolled in the full day program need sleeping gear for rest time. Please consult your class teacher if you have questions. They will let you know if any other specific items are needed.

Toys and Personal Items

Toys, stuffed animals, dolls and “loveys” and treasures are best kept safely at home as they may get lost, broken and cause “sad hearts” when other children wish to play with beloved items. Please ask if you have any questions about this.

If items from school such as crystals, stones, shells, little animals come to your home, no need for alarm. Simply have your child return them the next day.

Emergency and Health Forms

The State of Michigan requires that every student have an Emergency Information and a Health form on file in the office. These forms must be filled out and be given to the school office by the opening day of school.

Please be sure to provide updated information throughout the school year.

Health and Illness. Medication. Accident

The teachers share with you a deep concern for your child’s physical and inner health. The Children’s Center is a busy place. The best environment for a sick or overtired child is resting at home – even if it is “just a cold.” Germs spread very rapidly, and a coughing or sneezing child can infect an entire class very quickly. If a child is not well enough to participate in all of the Children’s Center activities, including going outdoors, then they should remain at home. We are not able to offer individual, separate indoor supervision during outdoor recess time.

If your child has a fever, please allow them to remain at home for 24 hours after the fever has subsided, to permit full recuperation. We suggest that if your child is receiving antibiotics they should stay at home a minimum of 3 days to facilitate a healthy recovery. It is important for an ill child to remain in a quiet restful environment so that upon returning to school they are able to fully and joyfully participate in all activities.

We truly understand the difficulty facing working parents when their child is not feeling well and urge you to arrange back-up care. We are also grateful for your help in keeping everyone well and other parents will also appreciate your care for the health of our community.

If your child will be absent from school for any reason, please call the office as early as possible.

When children become ill at school parents will be contacted to pick up their child as soon as possible.

When a child has an infection or communicable disease they must remain at home. Please report any communicable diseases to the office IMMEDIATELY. Before returning to school, your child must bring a physician’s statement that the disease is no longer contagious. This is a Michigan law requirement. (Please refer to the school-wide Parent Handbook for details on the Lice Policy.)

We are committed to working with families to establish support systems to promote a safe and healthy school environment. Below you will find our medication policy and health and safety regulations affecting our school. We appreciate your attention to these important policies

Medications at School:

Parents and guardians are requested to space medication within the hours that the child is at home. Under special circumstances, approved by a physician, accommodation may be made for use of medication during school hours.

The administration of prescribed medication and/or medically-prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only if failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, or the child is disabled and requires medication to benefit from his/her educational program.

Authorized administrative personnel are to administer medication or treatment only in the presence of another adult, except in the case of an emergency that threatens the life or health of the student. EPI-Pens will be administered by trained DWS staff members.

If your student has been prescribed medication that must be given during the day, the **Authorization for Prescribed Medication or Treatment** form can be found on-line or in the school office <http://www.detroitwaldorf.org/parent-forms/>. The form must be signed by a parent/guardian and ordering physician and be on file in the school office before any medication can be administered. A medication administration record for each student will be kept on file in the office. **Over the counter medication (OTC)** must be conducted with the guidelines for prescription medication.

Asthma Management:

If your child has asthma, written parental/guardian permission and a copy of the prescription from the child's physician must be on file in order for the child to use an inhaler while at school. We would like to suggest that children in the lower grades (Early Childhood Center-4th) keep their inhalers in the school office. This will allow the office staff to track a student's inhaler use and inform the teacher and parents of any concerns or problems.

The School Based Asthma Management Plan must be signed by a parent/guardian and the ordering physician and be on file in the school office. **Any student using an inhaler at school must have a completed form on file. The form is available in the office or on-line at <http://www.detroitwaldorf.org/parent-forms/>** This form must be updated annually.

In addition to over-the-counter and prescription medication, homeopathic remedies, cough drops, and chewable vitamins are considered medication and cannot be left in lunch boxes for children to self administer. Please do not send them to school.

Children who incur a mild injury while in school are given simple first aid. A parent is called if it appears that the injury requires further attention. If a child requires emergency medical assistance, the school will attempt to contact the parents first, then an emergency contact, but may be required to take the child to a hospital emergency service if parents cannot be contacted. An incident report is always filed and a copy sent home to parents if there is an injury.

The school will need to have any special requests regarding the administration or non-administration of first aid on file in written form. Also, please list any necessary information regarding sensitivities (intolerances and allergies), especially to insect bites and foods, as well as other substances, and the use of an EPI Pen or similar device if use could be necessary.

THE SCHOOL'S INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES. PLEASE REVIEW YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH CARE INSURANCE TO BE SURE THAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE ADEQUATELY COVERED FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

Communication and Attendance

If you have any questions or thoughts to share about your child's experience throughout the year, all teachers encourage you to approach them. We will be happy to make an appointment to meet in person or by phone to have a conversation. If you need to let us know something regarding your child you may also leave a message, email or a note to alert us to changes in your family life or routines, plans, illness, death or special events when you arrive. This will help us better support your child during the day.

If parents or guardians have a question about their child, or any aspect of the program during the day, they can call the office and ask that a note be placed in a teacher's mailbox or if the matter is urgent, that the note be delivered directly to the teacher. Parents and guardians may also send a note to school with their child, leave a note in a teacher's mailbox in the office or leave a voicemail on a teacher's phone or contact them via email. Teachers will respond within 24 hours with a reply or to arrange further follow up.

Please consult with your child's teacher *in advance* if a doctor, dentist or other medical appointment is scheduled for your child and you would like to bring them to school afterward. In some cases it may be best to wait until the following day to return to school. Teachers should also be informed as far in advance as possible if an absence or early pick-up is necessary. Should your child be absent unexpectedly, please call the school office as soon as possible after the absence is known.

We do ask for your understanding in not entering into lengthy conversations with teachers or assistants during the school day when families are arriving or departing, during class or when children are present and need our attention. We look forward to our partnership in the coming year!

Parents are welcome to visit their child while they are in school. We do however recommend that visits be pre arranged so as not to disrupt the children's routine or cause upset to little ones who see a parent and expect their own to also appear and take them home. Parents are also invited as special guests to each child's birthday celebration, as well as to all of the school festivals throughout the year.

The early childhood program starts at 8:30. The heart of the Early Childhood program begins at this time and late arrival diminishes a child's experience of the full benefit of the activities of the program. Late arrival also affects their integration into the group. We understand that there may be circumstances that delay a child's arrival. If you arrive and your child's class is no longer on the playground, please proceed to the front office and sign your child in. A staff member will update the attendance record and then you can take your child to their indoor classroom.

When arriving after 8:30 am, please knock on the classroom door and **wait until a teacher is able to answer and welcome our child into the room**. Please be aware that you may need to wait in the hallway with your child until there is a suitable pause in the program during which time a teacher can be available to greet your child and help them orient themselves into classroom activities.

If a parent needs to drop off a forgotten item, or is having another person drop it off, it should be delivered directly to the office. The office staff will be responsible for delivering it to the teacher or classroom.

Class Meetings

You are warmly encouraged to participate in the life of the early childhood center and to attend the class meetings usually held in the early fall, winter and early spring. Parent evenings are an opportunity to discuss the educational and social goals of the class for the year. These meetings provide a place for meaningful discussions with other parents. They are also an occasion to deepen your understanding of Waldorf education and partner with the class teacher and parents.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Individual family conferences are offered by the teachers twice a year. It is highly recommended that you sign up to discuss your child's progress. You are also encouraged to contact your child's class teacher whenever you have a question or concern about your child.

Behavior Guidelines in the Early Childhood Program

It is our aim in early childhood to surround the children with a rhythmically consistent, safe and nurturing environment. We all strive to be worthy role models so that, out of imitation, the children will have an opportunity to become respectful and caring of themselves, others and their surroundings.

When a child's behavior is inappropriate, the teacher may redirect the child by giving them a task such as helping out with some of the daily work, washing, cooking or another activity to meaningfully direct their hands and energy.

If at any time the child's behavior is disruptive or harmful to others, it may be necessary to remove the child from the situation. This could range from "time away" (within the classroom, away from the others), to having to remain in during recess with a teacher to help, or more seriously the requirement of a "home day."

If the behavior continues to be inappropriate, a parent-teacher conversation must begin. If the child's behavior does not improve or remain healthy for the child and/or others, the child will need to remain at home. At this point it may need to be determined whether the child's further participation is in the best interest of the child and the class.

The safety and well-being of the children is of paramount importance. It is basic to the nurturing, caring environment that we strive to provide. Though it is the nature of children to test the protective arms we spread around them, they will not be permitted to go beyond these loving, safeguarding arms.

Emergency Closing

When school must be closed because of bad weather, an automated phone call, text or email message will be made and the closing will be announced over local radio and TV stations at the earliest possible hour in the morning.

Check WJR (760 AM or 96 FM) or WWJ (950 AM or 97.1 FM) or wwj.com, which generally are the most reliable and responsive. Any other emergency closing will be communicated via the automated phone or text alert system.

Fire, Tornado and Shelter in Place Drills

The children practice drills several times during the school year. While we do not share specifics with the children, the purpose of the drills is to develop a practical response should such an event occur. The entire school practices in a quiet, swift and orderly manner. We also have blankets, water and snacks, an emergency radio, flashlights and emergency procedures to help staff respond to manmade or natural events. As required by law, the drill schedule is published on the school website.

Annual School Calendar

An annual school calendar is published each year to identify holidays and school breaks, parent-teacher conferences, class meetings, fundraisers, all school festivals, and other events. The first draft of the calendar is usually mailed with the school's summer mailing to parents and the final draft is available at the beginning of the school year. Please check the calendar carefully so that you can be available for conferences and class meetings and for any events for which you are acting as a parent volunteer. The calendar is also available online on the school's website.

Festivals and Assemblies

Festivals are a vital part of Waldorf education. Their purpose is to bring the community together and provide nourishment for the soul. Families are invited to attend these wonderful community events. Please check your school calendar and the Detroit Waldorf School weekly *Through The Gate* Newsletter for dates and times.

School Newsletter

The school newsletter, *Through The Gate*, is emailed weekly each Friday morning to all families. The newsletter contains important reminders, lists of upcoming activities, sports schedules, articles about Waldorf education and other information. The administrator or administrative assistant must approve all outside submissions for consistency with the Waldorf philosophy and pedagogy. If there is a question regarding pedagogical appropriateness, the submission will be taken to the faculty chair. The office staff always reserves the right to edit submissions for spelling, grammar and length.

Note: *Through The Gate* may not be used for advertising or promoting goods or services.

If you do not receive the newsletter, please check your spam folder as .edu and bulk emails are often filtered.

Volunteers

Volunteers supporting a school function, where there is contact with students, must complete a volunteer application and orientation. This is required for our school liability insurance.

Class Trips

The cooperation of parents who volunteer for class trips is much appreciated by the class teachers. School trips are great fun and can best be enjoyed when all adhere to a set of standards that make it easy to know what to do. All volunteers are provided with a Code of Conduct Policy – available in the office.

1. In order for children to participate in any class trip parents must sign a permission slip for the specific event.
2. Please, no junk food! This is a school policy and needs to be followed on trips as well. This includes gum, candy and overly-sugary snacks.
3. Drivers are not to take children on any stops along the way. This includes grocery stores, fast food restaurants, and gas stations. Please fill your cars with gas ahead of time.
4. Stay with the group at all times. Do not run long errands without notifying the teacher. The teacher is responsible for the children's safety and he/she is to know where everyone is in case of an emergency.
5. If you agree to drive on a trip, you will be asked to verify certain safety conditions of yourself and your vehicle. **This must be updated annually.**

Pet Policy

Students may not bring pets to school, even if just for a visit. No pets are allowed on school grounds. The primary reason for this policy is to protect both parents and children who have allergies.

Lost and Found

Please mark all clothing items with your child's name so the items may be returned if they are misplaced. The school maintains a lost and found in the basement of the school under the Eurythmy room. At the end of each term, unclaimed items are donated to a charitable organization.

[For Further Information - Quick Guide for Who to Call for What!](#)

Please refer to the school-wide Parent Handbook for additional information and explanation of school structure and policies, history, pedagogy, community life and a staff directory.

Recommended Reading

Child Development, Parenting, Healthy Home Life Rhythms

- *Beyond the Rainbow Bridge* – Barbara Patterson – A handbook for early childhood in an easy to read format.
- *You are Your Child's First Teacher* – Rahima Baldwin
- *Heaven on Earth: A Handbook for Parents of Young Children* – Sharifa Oppenheimer – Includes many encouraging anecdotal examples of how to incorporate rhythm and activities into daily life.
- *Seven Times the Sun: Guiding Your Child Through the Rhythms of the Day* – Shea Darian • *Simplicity Parenting: Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier, and More Secure Kids* – Kim John Payne
- *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder* – Richard Louv • *Smart Moves: Why Learning is Not All in Your Head* – Carla Hannaford, Ph. D. • *The Well Balanced Child: Movement and Early Learning* – Sally Goddard Blythe • *Summer Children: Ready or Not for School* – J. Uphoff, J. Gilmore, R. Huber • *Lifeways: Working with Family Questions* – G. Davey & B. Voors
- *More Lifeways* – P Smith & S. Eklund Schaefer
- *Six-Point Plan for Raising Happy Healthy Children* – John Rosemond
- *Covering Home* – Jack Petrash
- *Adventures in Parenting* – Rachel C. Ross
- *The Spiritual Task of the Homemaker* – Manfred Schmidt-Brabant
- *Miseducation: Preschoolers at Risk* – David Elkind – Support for a healthy education that encourages the spontaneous learning process allowing children to explore and understand their world.
- *The Hurried Child* – David Elkind

Activities for Children and Families

- *Earthways: Simple Environmental Activities for Young Children* – Carol Petrash - Seasonal and festival activities to do with children. Easy to read format with step-by-step instructions and illustrations.
- *The Creative Family* – Amanda Blake Soule
- *Calm Kids: Help Children Relax with Mindful Activities* – Lorraine Murray
- *All Year Round* – A. Druitt, S. Fitzjohn, M. Rowling
- *The Children's Year: Seasonal Crafts and Clothes* - S. Cooper, C. Fyness-Clinton, M. Rowling • *Festivals, Family and Food* – D. Carey & J. Large – More seasonal and festival activities to do with children.

Health and Nutrition

- *A Guide to Child Health* – M. Glockler & W. Goebel
- *Nourishing Traditions* – Sally Fallon

Waldorf Education and Early Childhood

- *Work and Play in Early Childhood* – Freja Jaffke – A brief description of life in a Waldorf kindergarten.
- *Children at Play: Preparation for Life* – Heidi Britz Crecelius- -There is nothing that human

beings do, know, think, hope and fear that has not been attempted, experienced, or practiced in children's games.

Detroit Waldorf School Early Childhood Program Parent Handbook 2017-2018 Page 14

- *Waldorf Education: A Family Guide* – Edited by Pamela Johnson Fenner and Karen L. Rivers. This book is the winner of the Benjamin Franklin Award.
- *Rudolf Steiner/Waldorf Education* – Edited by David Mitchell – An excellent first encounter, with photos, artwork, and a clear text.
- *The Recovery of Man in Childhood* – A.C. Harwood – This book focuses on child development and the ways in which Waldorf education meets the growing child.

Effects of Media

- *The Plug in Drug* – Marie Wimm
- *Who's Bringing Them Up?* – Martin Large
- *Endangered Minds: Why Children Can't Read* – J. Healy
- *A is for Ox: The Collapse of Literacy and the Rise of Violence in an Electronic Age* – Barry Sanders
- *Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television* – Jerry Mander
- *The Evil Eye: The Unacceptable Face of Television* – Guy Lyon
- *The Child and the Machine: How Computers Put Our Children's Education at Risk* – Alison Armstrong & Charles Casement

Websites

- Alliance for Childhood: <http://www.allianceforchildhood.org>
- Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA): <http://www.whywaldorffworks.org> •
- Online Waldorf Library: <http://www.waldorflibrary.org>
- Anthroposophy: <http://www.anthroposophy.org>
- Fairplay for Kids: <http://fairplayforkids.org>

