

Duty Parent Guide

GCNS parents and educators work together to create a positive early educational experience for the children. Parents contribute in the classroom on a rotating basis. This allows everyone to see and share as the children play, learn, grow, and form relationships with others. A parent, grandparent or caregiver is expected to participate in the classroom as a "duty parent." Duty parents act as a teacher assistant in the classroom; preparing snacks, helping to guide the day's activities, and participating in the play centers, as needed. By far, many parents consider this the most rewarding experience within the co-op.

Within the cooperative, each family is needed to participate fully. It's worth the work!

Responsibilities

- If the program starts outside the tables will have already been set up for snack, but if it's an inclement weather day we ask that you sanitize the tables, and place a napkin on the table for each child (we have napkins for the children).
- The educators will help you set out your snack, and then it's time to serve the hungry children! After snack is finished, we ask that you disinfect the tables, and sweep the floor. There is a chart posted on the bulletin board outside of the classroom and we ask that you write down the snack you provided so all families know what the children were served that day.
- Let the children decide what they want to play and be their play partner.
- During "tidy-up time", encourage children to put things away on their own, and be a role model by putting things away with them.
- Putting the water bottles in their cubbies while the children are in circle. **(toddler class only)**
- Please sanitize all tables while children are participating in circle.

Your Role

- Let the children lead the play.
- Observe what is happening, and the learning that is happening.
- Ask open ended questions and enjoy the discoveries and experiences of the day!
- Don't forget: You are a very important fourth pair of eyes and ears!

Your Child

It is a very special day for your child when it is your turn to help at school. Not only do you have special 'duties', they also have duties that day. They may behave quite differently when you are there, but do not let this influence your day. Be enthusiastic and relaxed, and let them know why you are there. It is a good idea to discuss with your child ahead of time that you are at school to help the educators and all the children.

We are a nut free, peanut free school. At no time should items containing nuts of any kind be brought into the school. There may be other allergies and/or restrictions depending on the children enrolled each year. You will be informed of this at the orientation meeting in August and by email. Please refer to Canada's Food Guide for healthy snack ideas [Canada Food Guide](#). Thank you for helping us keep a safe environment for all.

Snack suggestions:

Typically, snack includes a carbohydrate (bread, cracker, croissant, muffin, breadsticks, or pita), fruit or vegetables, and cheese or yogurt. Some families like to make something with their child to bring, but store-bought snack items are fine. It's best to have food pre-sliced and ready to serve as the children are hungry and ready to eat! Some fruits don't do well pre-sliced, so it's okay for some foods to be cut at the school (we have a cutting board, knife and serving bowls).

ideas:

pita bread and hummus, bagels, mini muffins, croissants

dry cheerios, dry shreddies

fish crackers, Breton crackers, rice cakes, fig bars

cantaloupe, mangos, watermelon, bananas, apple slices, kiwi, blueberries, oranges, applesauce, raisins

pepper slices, peas, cucumber slices

cheese strings, cheese cubes

Younger siblings

Younger siblings are welcome to join you on your duty day if alternate care plans cannot be arranged. Please note that they must be in an infant seat or infant carrier/wrap as there are toys/materials that are not age appropriate for children under the age of 16 months used within the program which may cause a choking hazard.

****Only educators will be attending to toileting/diaper changes****