

This is a very exciting experience for you and your child. Everything may be new to both of you, but we will assist you in any way that we can so that our environment will quickly become familiar. Since our mutual goal is for your child to adapt to our classroom and conquer separation, here are a few guidelines/hints that you should plan to follow. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation. We hope you both have a great year. We are certainly looking forward to it!

1. You should plan to stay in our classroom for as long as your child needs you here. Every child is different, just as every sibling is different, so the length of your stay will depend upon how your toddler adjusts to our class (i.e. it maybe 1-2 days or possibly several weeks/months).
2. While you are still in the room working on separation, you will be responsible for sitting in a designated adult sized chair to do **your work** (i.e. read a book/magazine, check e mails quietly, etc. Please put your phone on vibrate) This way your child will feel secure, knowing where to find you while he/she is able to explore the room and find his/her own work. Don't worry if your child begins by bringing work over to your chair to play by your feet. This is just part of the process. But remember, keep doing your work! Acknowledge your child with a smile or light touch.
3. Always tell your child when you are leaving the classroom, even if it is for just a few minutes to use the restroom. Resist the urge to look back and say "ok"? We need to build a trusting relationship with your child and we need your help. Believe me, your child will have more confidence in us if we can keep reminding him/her where you truly went (i.e. to get coffee) than if you just sneak away. A great thing to tell your child is that you will be back "after bubbles", since every child pops bubbles as part of his/her dismissal each day.
4. As your child adjusts to the classroom some signs that he/she is ready for separation are:
  - a. explores different areas/materials in the room
  - b. allows the teachers to join in play or offer assistance.
  - c. Follows general routines of the session. (i.e. works independently, sits for circle, transitions from one activity to another, etc.)
  - d. Checks in with you less frequently.
5. As your child becomes ready for separation we will talk to you to make sure that you are in agreement. At that time, we will need to know where you are telling your child you are going and how to get in touch with you if necessary. If your child appears to be upset as you are leaving, please follow through with separating and wait to speak to a teacher before re-entering the classroom. It is important to remember that initial separations may be for about 10 minutes (the length of time to make a phone call), but they will grow in time.

Let us know if we can help in any way!