

COLTS

MS. BARBARA MS. AIDEN MS. KATIE MS. ALCIA

What a year it has been!

We want to thank you for allowing us to care for your child during these changing times. We want to reassure you that we are doing everything that we can to keep our Colts and their family members safe. Two things that we do daily that the children love to do: frequent handwashing and "toy cleaning". We change, clean, and sanitize toys multiple times throughout the day (without help from the children).

We are excited about the start of a new school year. Each month we will explore our themes through literature, artwork, song/ dance, and science. We are continually teaching our Colts colors, shapes, numbers, Spanish words, and American Sign Language. Throughout the day, we reinforce what we are teaching

our class. Can we count how high the blocks are? Are you pushing the vehicles across the floor? Donde esta el pero? (Repetition is the key aspect of teaching young children).

The STEAM curriculum is a major part of our lesson plans. Stacking and sorting toys helps promote math skills, flash cards and story time promote literacy skills. We tend to do a lot of art activities with our class, and the children absolutely **love it**. (The children are learning to be creative, use simple science techniques, recognize colors, and work together). Everything that we do may appear to be **playing**, but this is how children learn. Always remember that a child's play is work.

The Colt class is considered a transition room: your child is no

longer considered a baby, yet he/she is not quite a toddler. He/she is going from multiple daily feedings/ naps per day, sleeping in a crib, and using a bottle, pacifier, and swaddle to a more structured setting. (One nap a day, no bottles/pacifiers, sleeping on a cot, a more consistent routine, etc....) At this stage in life, acquired tastes have not yet developed, so children tend to be more inquisitive about food. Normally we discourage *playing with food*, but at this age we encourage it. They are learning new textures, smells, and tastes. (What they liked yesterday; they may not like today.) Research indicates that it takes 12 to 15 times for a child to decide if he/she likes a food or not. Keep encouraging him/her to try different foods at home, and we will do the same at school.

REMINDERS

Make sure that you provide weather- appropriate clothing for your child. Don't forget to label all personal belongings (coat, bedding, water cup, etc....) with your child's first name and initial of last name. Please remember to label **all diapers with your child's initials**.

As always, we will continue to use a lot of repetition with our Colts. This is the best way that they learn the skills that are needed in life. Remember that we are here for your child and you. Questions, comments, and concerns will always be answered in a timely manner. You may leave us note via the Tadpole App, on our classroom email (colts@rockinghorseacademy.com), or call us during our nap hours (12:00-2:00)