



Hello and welcome to the new term at Jack and Jill Preschool

Inside this folder is some of the information that you will need to help you and your child begin the preschool term. Please take some time to look over the papers, complete the forms that need to be filled in, and to learn more about Jack and Jill.

The preschool has a **Parent Handbook** which outlines the school's policies and gives a lot of useful information to help children and families make the transition to preschool. In an effort to reduce printing costs, and to lessen the impact of printing so many pages of paper, the Handbook is available from the preschool's website: JackandJillLeighton.org. We ask that every family read the Handbook. If you do not have access to the internet, paper copies of the Handbook are available, please ask a staff member. When you have read the Handbook, you will need to sign the Signature page and return it to the preschool during your child's first week of school. Included in this folder is the **Signature Page** from the handbook for you to sign. If you have any questions or concerns, please come and discuss them with us.

Meet the preschool staff:

Mrs. Shelly Zellner (the redhead), is the director of the preschool. She handles the paperwork, policies, and other administrative aspects of the program. She is also the lead instructor of the prekindergarten classes, and she supports Mrs. Howells with the primary class.

Mrs. Jane Howells (with the long, blonde hair), is the lead instructor of the primary class and she provides instructional support to Mrs. Zellner in the prekindergarten classes.

For more information about the governing of the preschool, please refer to your Parent Handbook.

We love keeping in touch with our preschool families and have several ways to do it. Families can speak to your child's teacher before or after class when you drop off or pick up your child. You can put a note in your child's folder in their bookbag, and the teachers will read it and respond. You can call the preschool 610-377-6562 to talk or leave a message. You can send an email: jackandjillpreschool@yahoo.com. We strongly encourage families to join the preschool's Facebook page to stay in contact and to share information. Please see your Parent Handbook for more information.

Included in this folder is a copy of your yearly preschool calendar. We hope this helps you to plan when your child will have vacation days from preschool, and when there will be special parties and events.

Also included is your September snack calendar. The families take turns providing snack for the children in the class. The snack calendar shows who will be bringing snack each day, along with notes about upcoming events. You will get a new calendar each month, so if your child isn't assigned a

snack day this month, they will be on the calendar next month. More information about snacks is listed in the Parent Handbook.

Supplies your child will need to start the preschool term:

Your child will need some things at Jack and Jill, including:

A backpack or bookbag large enough to hold a minimum size 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11" folder.

An approximately 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11" folder. You can use the one that is holding these papers, or purchase another one for your child. This folder will be put in and removed from the backpack daily, so be sure the backpack is large enough that the folder fits easily and the folder is sturdy enough to withstand the wear and tear.

A plastic pencil case. Please write your child's name on the lid and both ends of the pencil case with a sharpie. The pencil case will stay at school for the term and be returned to you in the spring.

A pack of 8 primary colored crayons. These can be large or regular sized in diameter, whichever best fits your child's hand and coloring skills. Although it is tempting to buy large boxes of crayons with many special colors, most of the work that we do at school depends on the children using the basic ROYGBV (with brown and black) colors, and having many shades of each color can make it difficult for the child to choose the best color to use for their schoolwork. The crayons will stay in their pencil case.

A pack of glue sticks. They will also stay in the pencil case during the term.

You may want to include a change of clothes for your child to keep in the bottom of the bookbag. Please see your Parent Handbook for more information.

If you would like to also donate items to the preschool, we appreciate:

Bottles of 100% apple juice, rolls of paper towels, dry floor cloths, or containers of disinfecting wipes.



Jack and Jill Preschool 2017-2018 tuition payment schedule:

Prekindergarten full tuition for the 2017-2018 term is: \$980

\$116 first installment, \$108/month remaining eight installments.

Payments are due monthly August, 2017-April, 2018.

Primary full tuition for the 2017-2018 term is: \$910

\$110 first installment, \$100/month remaining eight installments

Payments are due monthly August, 2017-April, 2018.

Please keep this to record your tuition installments. Tuition installments should be put in your child's folder in their backpack. Tuition can be paid by check or cash. Checks should be made out to Jack and Jill Preschool. Please note your child's name on the memo line of the check. Cash payments should be put in an envelope with the child's name written on the outside. Receipts are given for cash payments.

| <u>Installment</u> | <u>date due</u> | <u>date paid</u> | <u>amount</u> | <u>payment in check or cash</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 8/28/17 | | | |
| 2 | 9/27/17 | | | |
| 3 | 10/27/17 | | | |
| 4 | 11/27/17 | | | |
| 5 | 12/27/17 | | | |
| 6 | 1/29/18 | | | |
| 7 | 2/27/18 | | | |
| 8 | 3/27/18 | | | |
| 9 | 4/27/18 | | | |

Fundraising

Like most organizations today, Jack and Jill has to do fundraising in order to keep costs as low as possible. Two of our favorite fundraisers don't cost families anything to participate, and they raise money for the preschool.

The Giant A+ School Rewards program. At this time (August 17, 2017), the Giant school coordinator website is having problems registering schools for the upcoming term. As soon as they have it fixed, Jack and Jill will register as a participating school for the 2017-2018 school term. When everything on the site is worked out, the preschool will be assigned a number, each preschool family will get a note with all the information on how families, friends and neighbors can support the preschool by registering their Giant bonus card online, and choosing Jack and Jill Preschool as one of the schools that you would like to support.

After you have registered, every time you shop at Giant and scan your bonus card between September, 2017 and March, 2018 credit will be given to Jack and Jill. At the end of the program, the amount of credit the preschool has received through people using the program will be translated to cash for the preschool. Jack and Jill will receive a check from Giant which can be used in any way.

Registering for the program does not impact your bonus point balance in any way. You still will get all bonus point sales, and accrue bonus points to use for gas discounts. The more people who go online, register their cards, and use them when they shop at Giant, the more funds the preschool will get. You will receive registration information as soon as possible, when you have it, please encourage family, friends and neighbors to register and participate. People can support two separate schools each program year.

BoxTops for Education. Each month a BoxTops collection sheet will go home with your child. Your first collection sheet is included in this folder. During each month, keep an eye out for the familiar pink BoxTops symbol on many of the products that you use everyday. You and your child can cut out the symbols, attach them to the collection sheet and return it to the preschool. Additional collection sheets will be available on the porch bulletin board, and new sheets will go home each month. You can also put extra BoxTops into plastic bags and put them in your child's folder, the teachers will find them, take them out and put them on collection sheets. Ask family and friends to keep an eye out for the BoxTops symbol and help Jack and Jill raise needed funds.

Your family is branching out!

By starting preschool, your child's (and your) world is changing and growing! Everyone is going to have new experiences, and adventures. Perhaps this is the first time your child is going away from family and familiar caregivers, or maybe it's the first time they are entering a structured environment, maybe they are returning to preschool after a summer of relaxation. Whatever the case, we want to help your child transition to this new world in a happy, stress free way. As families, you have the important job of helping to keep this change positive for your child. Here are some suggestions on how to start building excitement for attending preschool.

- * Begin to get your child on a sleep schedule. Going to bed at a regular time, getting enough sleep, and waking refreshed will help your child to feel ready to start their new adventures at school. A familiar bedtime routine helps your child to physically and emotionally wind down and get ready for sleep. Going to bed at a regular time, helps to get their sleep/wake clock in sync with the need to get up for school.

- * Try to encourage your child to eat breakfast, many children need time to be awake before they recognize that they are hungry. Provide enough time for your child to eat breakfast in the morning. Jack and Jill provides snack, but it is not until the children have been in school for an hour or more, which is a long time for tummies to be empty. A full belly will make your child feel more comfortable and less stressed at preschool.

- * Make sure your child uses the bathroom before coming to school. If your child has slept all night without using the bathroom, then gotten dressed, eaten breakfast, and played-I guarantee that they need to use the bathroom. They may not recognize it, or feel that it is necessary, but as adults we do. Don't ask if they need to go, tell them that it's time to use the bathroom as part of getting ready to leave for school. The children can use the bathroom at preschool whenever they need it, but, especially at the beginning of the term, some children are shy about asking, or they may think that the teachers know that they need to go-so, instead of causing this stress for them, make sure they go at home.

- * Start telling them about how much fun they will have in preschool. Talk about the friends, games, stories, toys and art that they will do when at school. This is a new experience for them, children have no point of reference as to what school means, so they don't know what will happen. Everyone is nervous about starting a new experience, the more you know what to expect, the less stress you feel.

- * Start using your child's teachers names in conversation. 'Mrs. Zellner and Mrs. Howells are getting the school ready for you.' 'When you get to school, Mrs. Howells will help you to take off your backpack.' 'Mrs. Zellner will help give you drinks at snack time.' By using the teachers names, we become familiar to your child. They begin to think about us as part of their world.

- * DON'T use the teacher as a way to correct behavior at home! If you tell your child that Mrs. Zellner or Mrs. Howells will be mad if they engage in a behavior, or if the teachers will yell at them if they do something wrong at school, we become scary bad guys in the children's minds! Nobody would want to be taken to a place where they are afraid that they will be scolded! And that's not what we do in school!

- * Point out the preschool when you drive or walk past the building. 'That's where you'll be going to school soon.' 'Look, the preschool is ready for you'. This reassures your child about where they will be

going .

* Reassure your child that even though they will be in school without you (or their trusted caregiver), someone will be there everyday to pick them up when school is over.

* Be positive about their ability to go to school on their own. Children look to their adults to see how they should react to situations. If they hear you saying things like: 'I hope they don't cry when they go to school.' or 'I'll miss them so much that I'll cry when they go to school.' or other things like that, your child will have mixed feelings about starting this new adventure. If they see you unsure about it, they will also be unsure. Remain positive. If you have questions or concerns, come and talk to the teachers (outside of your child's hearing). Let's be honest, especially if this is your first time seeing a little one leave the nest, you're going to have mixed feelings. Where did the past few years go? Arent' they still a baby? Are they ready for this adventure? Will the teachers take care of them? I'm not ready to let go! Take time to acknowledge those feelings, but do it away from your child. Your first job is to give them strength, confidence, and joy as they start their journey out into the bigger world. Then, go cry in the car after you drop them off, get a coffee, and take a deep breath as you watch your brave, wonderful child enjoy their life.

Included in this folder is a *Get Ready for School* calendar. Each day has a special activity or advice for families to do during the countdown to school.