

LITTLE GARDEN PATCH FARM

NOTIFICATION OF FACILITY RULES & BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

As a participant at Little Garden Patch Farm I agree to abide by the rule and principles below...

WE ARE KIND TO ANIMALS.

- **The animals at Little Garden Patch Farm are important members of our family. We treat them with gentleness and respect.**
- It is never okay to hit or threaten an animal here.
- If an animal behaves in a way that annoys you or frightens you, please let us know so that we can help.
- Please do not feed the animals without permission. The wrong food, or too much food, can harm them.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE ARE KIND TO OTHER PEOPLE.

- **At Little Garden Patch Farm we do not hurt bodies and we do not hurt feelings.**
- **We are kind.** We are respectful to each other. We take turns. We use good manners.
- We don't whine or yell when someone doesn't do as we wish. And we never put others down. We do not hit or push.
- We do ask for what we want. We do listen to what the other person wants or doesn't want. And we do work out fair solutions together.
- **We ask for help whenever we need it.** We can ask a teacher for help.
- If anyone hurts our bodies or threatens us or make us feel uncomfortable we always tell Teacher Linnaea or Teacher Michelle. Our parents will need to know too.
- Also because everyone needs a quiet place sometimes... **we are quiet in the Quiet Zone** (living room and dining room). This is a place for people who need a quiet place to think, feel, or rest. It is also a good place to do homework.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE ARE KIND TO OURSELVES TOO!

It is important to let us know what you need, especially if you are having a problem. We want to help you feel safe, happy, and well. But we cannot read your mind! 😊 Please use your words and explain things so that we can help.

- Do you need help working things out with another child? Did someone hurt you or threaten you? Please let us know.
- If you have a problem that you do not feel comfortable discussing with the staff (Teacher Linnaea, Teacher Michelle, or etc.), please be sure to discuss it with your family right away so that they can support you and help us all reach a solution.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE TAKE CARE OF THINGS AT LITTLE GARDEN PATCH FARM.

- **Please help us take care of Little Garden Patch Farm** by taking good care of all equipment, materials, and areas and using them appropriately.
- **Please listen when someone explains what is appropriate** for a particular item or area as this helps keep everyone safe. If you are not sure you understand, please ask for more information.
- **Please help clean up!** If you take it out, plan to put it back. If you helped play with it, help clean put it away. Thanks!

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE PLAY SAFELY AND AVOID OFF LIMITS AREAS.

Certain areas are designated “off limits” either because they are not safe (i.e. do not meet licensing standards) or because they are private family space (such as bedrooms). **Please also watch out for uneven ground** or paving stones outside.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE ENJOY PLAYING *WITHOUT* CORDS AND BATTERIES!

- **The use of video games, TV, DVDs, computers, and other electronic fun is limited here.** Please do not bring hand-held gaming devices, tablets, laptops, or phones unless your parent has received express permission from Teacher Linnaea (for a very specific time and purpose.)
- We do this to encourage you to play outside, draw, read, talk to each other, play air hockey, paint, sculpt, sing a song, tell a story, or lay on your back and watch the clouds go by. Need more ideas? Just ask!

- (Special exceptions to the policy may be made on rare occasion such as during especially rainy weeks.)

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE PRACTICE GOOD HANDWASHING & STAY HOME WHEN SERIOUSLY ILL.

- **Please stay home if you are seriously ill.** You should not come to childcare if in the last 24 hours you ...
 - Have been exposed to Covid-19, are waiting for testing due to possible exposure to Covid-19, have tested positive for Covid-19, or **have any symptoms of Covid-19.**
 - **Have travelled recently** by airplane or travelled outside the county or state health departments' recommended safe travel guidelines recently.
 - Are vomiting
 - Have a fever (101 or higher)
 - Have diarrhea
 - Have a serious contagious illness (measles, chicken pox, strep throat, etc.)
 - Have head lice
- **Please practice good hand washing.** Hand washing is very important as a way to stop the spread of germs. Please wash hands...
 - ✓ Before eating. And after eating.
 - ✓ After using the toilet
 - ✓ If you sneeze or cough on your hands
 - ✓ If you touch your face or handle your mask (during the pandemic)
 - ✓ After handling animals, especially chickens, ducks, ponies, or goats.
 - ✓ If you touch animal poop or anything soiled with animal poop.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE LEARN AND FOLLOW THE RULES.

We expect that children (and adults) will honor their agreements with regard to the rules stated above.

But what happens if rules are momentarily forgotten? We remind. We discuss. We find positive solutions. We do NOT shame. We NEVER spank or use physical punishment.

Also, at Little Garden Patch Farm we seek as much as possible to avoid using Time Out as a punishment. Any child or adult who needs to "cool off" may receive the gentle suggestion to find a quiet place away from the person, place, situation, or item that is upsetting them. Please let us know how we can support you if this is needed.

However, if you are not listening to a teacher, are ignoring warnings and reminders, and are behaving in a way that may cause someone to get hurt... you may be *required* to take a time out. The purpose of the time out is to help you calm down so that you can be ready to listen – and to find a positive solution to the problem.

Also, if it is too hard to use an area or material appropriately, even with gentle reminders, you may be asked to stop using that area or material for a while. When you are ready to use it in accord with the rules, just let us know!

When the rules are not being followed, parents will be informed and asked for support. It is very important that your parents work with us so that issues can be resolved right away.

Lastly although we do not anticipate that the following will happen, parents should know that if the rules and code of behavior are frequently ignored (including and especially **if there is repeated aggression against persons or property**) **and/or the problem cannot be resolved in a short period of time parents may be asked to withdraw their child from Little Garden Patch Farm and make other arrangements for care.** Specifically, we cannot tolerate repeated aggression – verbal or physical. And, as a licensed program, we cannot keep children in our program if they are a risk to themselves or to others.

Please remember that Little Garden Patch Farm is meant to be a safe and happy place for EVERYONE who comes here. It is the job of the teachers to set rules and make sure they are kept so that everyone is treated with fairness and kindness and can focus on learning and playing happily.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Facility Rules & Behavior Agreement and accept the consequences of my actions.

Child Name & Signature **Date**

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the *Facility Rules & Behavior Agreement* and accept the consequences of my child's actions.

Parent Signature **Date**