

LITTLE GARDEN PATCH FARM

NOTIFICATION OF FACILITY RULES & BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

As a participant at Little Garden Patch Farm I agree to abide by the rules 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 quieter in the Quiet Zones** (such as the outdoor "reading room", the art area, or the bench in front of the lemon tree) and in the Play Room. These are places for people who need a quiet place to think, feel, create or just rest. Let us know if you need a quiet 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.
- Don't forget that eating, drinking, using the restroom, and wearing clothing that is right for the weather is important too! Please help us be kind to your body by doing all of these things.

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 in the right way. It's never okay to break things on purpose.
- **Please listen when someone explains what is appropriate** for a particular item or area as this helps keep everyone safe and keeps items from being broken and no longer available for us. If you are not sure you understand what we say to you, 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 up or put it away. If you dropped it, you can help by picking it up so it isn't stepped on. 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 the rooms in the family home *other than* the restroom). Please don't enter off limits areas. But it's fine to ask questions about them!

Please also watch out for uneven ground or paving stones outside.

The animals at the farm are very friendly. But for your safety, and theirs, **never try to enter an animal pen** without a teacher's permission – and a teacher.

Please do not feed the animals without checking with a teacher first! And of course, please do not stick your fingers in an animal's mouth. That is definitely another "off limits area"!

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE ENJOY PLAYING WITHOUT CORDS AND BATTERIES!

- 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.)
- Instead we encourage you to play outside, draw, read, talk to each other, 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 “no movies” policy may be made on rare occasion, such as during especially prolonged rainy weeks --or occasionally during school closure farm camp mornings during after school care.
- Special exceptions to the no laptops policy may be made if children have homework that must be done on a laptop during after school care.

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 diagnosed with covid-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the home.
 - Are vomiting or have done so in the last 24 hours.
 - Have diarrhea or have had diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
 - Have a fever or have had a fever in the last 24 hours.
 - Have a serious contagious illness (COVID-19, Measles, Chicken Pox, Strep throat, etc.) .
 - Have head lice or nits or have had them within the last 48 hours.
 - Have scabies or have been treated for scabies within the last 24 hours.
- **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.
 - Children who have difficulty keeping their fingers out of their nose or mouth, even with repeated requests to wash hands afterwards, may be asked to wear a face mask.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE LEARN AND FOLLOW THE RULES.

It is very important that children attending Little Garden Patch can comply with the limits set by the teachers and are willing to listen to and follow directions.

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 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, animals, 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 – this includes an inability or unwillingness to follow the limits set by the teachers.

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 for safety and mutual well-being and to make sure that 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**