

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 our friends and they are important members of our farm. We treat them with gentleness and respect.**
- We never hit, frighten, or threaten animals here. If an animal acts in a way that annoys or frightens us, we ask the teachers for help.
- We do not feed the animals without permission. The wrong food, or too much, can harm them.
- Some animal pens may be off limits. **We do not enter “off limits” pens.** (This is to keep us safe, and because Little Garden Patch Farm must follow rules set by State Licensing.)

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 use kind words.** We are respectful to each other.
- We share and take turns. We use good manners.
- We tell people what we need and want – and what we don’t want. We listen when others tells us what they need and want. We are fair.
- **AND... when we can’t work things out on our own we ask for help from our teachers!**
- If someone ever hurts our bodies or threatens us or does something else that makes us feel uncomfortable we always tell our teachers, Linnaea or Mike. Our parents will need to know too.
- Also we remember to use our indoor voices when we are in the playroom or inside the house (living room, kitchen, bathroom).
- Outside we can use a louder voice. (But please, no screaming! 😊 We have lots of neighbors!)

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE ARE KIND TO OURSELVES TOO!

It is important to let the teachers, Mike and Linnaea, know what we need -- especially if we are having a problem. They want us to feel safe, happy, and well. But they cannot read minds! 😊 So we must use our words and explain things so that the teachers can help us.

- If we need help working things out with another child we can ask the teachers.
- If we are feeling sick, thirsty, or cold we can ask the teachers for help.
- If we have a problem and we don't feel comfortable talking about it with any of the teachers (Linnaea, Mike, Jon, Michelle, etc.), we must tell our family about it right away so that they can help us *and* work with the teachers so things get better.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE TAKE CARE OF THINGS AT LITTLE GARDEN PATCH FARM.

- **We help take care of Little Garden Patch Farm** by being gentle with toys, tools, and other things and using them appropriately.
- **We listen when someone tells us something is unsafe or may break things.**
- If we don't understand the reason for a rule or limit, we can ask the teachers.
- **We help clean up!** If we take it out, we plan to put it back. If we helped play with it, we help put it away.



Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE PLAY SAFELY AND AVOID OFF LIMITS AREAS.

Certain areas are “off limits” because they are not safe (*i.e. do not meet licensing standards*)...or because they are private family space (*such as bedrooms*).

We watch out for uneven ground or paving stones outside that could trip us.

When we are climbing trees, we never climb higher than we “want” to fall! 😊 And we never climb on “baby” trees – they might break!

We always listen to the limits set by the teachers! They are here to help us and keep us safe. The words they are saying may be very helpful to us.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE ENJOY PLAYING *WITHOUT CORDS AND BATTERIES!*

- **We do not use video games, laptops, and other electronic fun here at Little Garden Patch Farm.**
- And we almost never watch movies here (exception: field trips/transport in the LGPF Shuttle Van).
- Instead we can play outside, draw, read, talk to other kids, help with the garden or the animals, put on a puppet show, play a board game, paint, do art projects, build with LEGOs or blocks, play with dolls and action figures, make fuse bead art, sing a song, tell a story, or lay on our backs and watch the clouds go by. If we need more ideas we just ask the teachers!

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE PRACTICE GOOD HANDWASHING & STAY HOME WHEN SERIOUSLY ILL.

- **We stay home if we are seriously ill.** We do not come to child care if in the last 24 hours we ...
 - Are vomiting
 - Have a fever (101 or higher)
 - Have diarrhea
 - Have a serious contagious illness (measles, chicken pox, strep throat, etc.)
 - Have head lice
- **We practice good hand washing.** Hand washing is very important as a way to stop the spread of germs. We wash hands with soap and water...
 - ✓ Before eating.
 - ✓ After using the toilet
 - ✓ If we sneeze or cough on our hands
 - ✓ After handling animals, especially chickens, ducks, pigs, ponies, or goats.
 - ✓ If we touch animal poop or anything soiled with animal poop.

Parent/guardian initials _____

Child initials _____

WE LEARN AND FOLLOW THE RULES.

We will honor our agreements with regard to the rules stated above.

But what happens if rules are momentarily forgotten? The teachers will give us a reminder us about the rule we have forgotten. They will explain and answer questions. They will help us find positive solutions.

But what if someone is reminded and still doesn't listen? If a child receives reminders and still does not listen or follow the rules... the teachers may need to give that child a consequence. (Such as losing the use of a toy, play area, or activity related to the problem.) When that person is ready to use the toy, tool, play area, or etc. appropriately, then they can join in again!

In more serious situations (such as hitting, ignoring the reminders, etc.) a child may receive a time out, followed by a discussion with the teacher about the choices made. And that is usually enough. But if the problem continues that day, or on subsequent days, the teachers will talk with the child's parents so that they may review this Behavior Agreement with their child, and talk with them at home about why LGPF has the rule or limit and what happens when the rule/limit is not followed, and why. It is up to the discretion of the parents as to whether to apply an additional consequence at home.

The teachers at LGPF believe that non-violent, natural and/or logical consequences are best and are happy to discuss this with families. LGPF's director, Linnaea Avenell, is an experienced and credentialed parent education instructor (Santa Clara Adult Education) and former classroom teacher and is happy to work with parents to find appropriate solutions where needed. **If a behavior problem happens again** after all of the above, parents will be contacted for support in creating a plan of action to handle the recurring problem.

Little Garden Patch Farm is meant to be a happy and safe place for ALL the children who come here. Therefore, if the problem cannot be resolved in a timely manner, and/or there is **continued physical or verbal aggression against other children** (or teachers, animals, etc.) parents will be asked to withdraw their child from Little Garden Patch Farm and **make other arrangements for care immediately.**

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