**New Horizons Child Care Center**

Dear Parents,

New Horizons is a literacy based center. You will find books in all centers. We incorporate books for learning during circle time twice a day and in the afternoon before the children leave for the day. Literacy is how children learn to express themselves through a variety of mediums.

Verbal skills greatly increase in this classroom and we strive to encourage growth by listening to all of our friends as they find their voice. This age group often speaks simple sentences and becomes more confident talking with adults. This is also an age of curiosity, and we work to fuel that curiosity and help them discover the answers for themselves.

Children love to explore different learning centers and learn through play with their peers. Some of our centers include: Blocks, Home Living, Music, Science, Manipulatives, Gross and Fine Motor activities and Art. We work as a team to teach the children shapes, letters, colors and numbers 1-15, by sight. We also practice the basics of writing, in our writing journals, focusing on the shapes of the letters and each child’s name. Each week use a theme that contributes to the children’s development. We have special events each week, such as Spanish, music and show & share. Our children love 3D art and “hands on” activities that are not only fun, but also contribute to their developmental needs. We focus on activities that encourage the use of their five senses to help our friends become aware of the world around them and get excited about learning. During circle time we use America Sign Language during circle time when discussing the letter of the week and the daily weather.

As an incentive for positive behavior we play the “Party Pocket” game! Each child has their own pocket where they will earn emoji’s and badges for helpful hands, kind choices and following instructions. Every child also has a behavior folder in the top of their cubbies. This is a stop light system that lets you know the tone of their day. Green light means a great day, yellow light means they had some warnings, red light means the same behaviors that earned a yellow light continued. Each day when you pick up your child we ask that you are excited to see how full your child’s party pocket is! When checking their behavior folder we ask for your partnership in addressing the behavior that may have changed the light from green.

Since children are made to move, we encourage gross motor skills. Our children have a fun time on the playground, twice a day. They are able to slide, play ball, swing, run, jump, and play. When weather does not permit, we will set up inside exercise stations or play games

Your child will need a fitted crib sheet, blanket and small lovey for nap. If the lovey is something that will come in and go home every day it must be small enough to fit in the top of the cubby. Please stock the bottom of their cubby with several changes of clothing and underwear.

As part of their development process, your child will be assessed for expectations and developmental milestones appropriate for their age group. Keep in mind that each child is unique and will develop in his/her own time frame.

Sincerely,

The Three Year Old Team