

## Desert Sun Child Development Center

### WHAT DOES PARENT PARTICIPATION MEAN?

**Parent Participation is... Participating in your child's education and getting involved. It may be in your child's classroom or outside of the classroom as a volunteer.**

Research shows that parents that participate in their children's education have children that are more likely to excel in school, go to college and be productive adults.

#### **How should I participate?**

In your child's classroom:

Get involved in the Parent Teacher Organization, school boards, fundraising committees and improving the school.

Attend special events at the school. This is a great way to become part of the community.

#### **What shall I do with my child?**

Whenever possible, place yourself at your child's level. Use direct eye contact when speaking with young children.

Your child is a relatively tough, active and capable person with a strong capacity for growth and development. Relax and enjoy your child's desire to explore and discover. Share the delight in experiencing the natural and social environment.

This environment is a child's place – a place for the child to learn how to be with peers, play by oneself, to become autonomous and independent. **The very BEST thing you can be is a good observer.** When children are playing, do not interrupt, or intrude. If you are asked or encouraged to join, jump in. Take your child's lead in the classroom.

#### **How can I work with my child's teacher?**

The teacher will be the class facilitator. She will ensure the program's smooth flow and assume major responsibility for organizing, setting up and cleaning the classroom environment. The teacher will give you direction when help is needed. Otherwise, follow your child's lead.

Parents are experts on their children in the home setting and the teacher will do her utmost to support each parent in the school setting. Teachers are the experts on general child behavior in a school setting and parents will want to do their utmost to support each teacher. Together they will do their best in their vital roles.

Any feedback you can offer that will serve to improve and design the classes and parent meetings to suit your needs will be greatly appreciated.

### **Desert Sun general rules:**

Please do not share with another parent incidences that happen at school. First of all, you may have only part of the story. If a teacher is concerned about an incident she will call the parent immediately. As seasoned teachers we understand the development and growth stages of young children. Something that might seem “different” to a parent might be “perfectly normal” to us. If you are concerned, check it out with the teacher.

Please do not share stories about any child in front of a child. They could misunderstand what you are saying and they may think they did something wrong. Contact the teacher after class hours to discuss any issue you may have.

Please keep adult conversation outside of the classroom.

**Do not make a model for young children.** For example: play dough, art etc.,. Children need to use their own creative minds when working with materials. Children cannot replicate adult work and this is frustrating to them and will stop the learning process.

Turn off your cell phone when entering the school. Give the school number if need and the office will find you if you have a phone call.

Most important, enjoy your children and cherish every moment.

### **Help for Everyone:**

Listen, looking at the child at eye level.

Expect the best.

Accept a child’s explanation. Let the child tell you what they know. Ask open-ended questions.

Give choices, when possible.

State limits positively and firmly.

Avoid putting OK at the end of a request. Asking ok gives the child a choice.

Rely on your own judgment with safety and health concerns. If you are not comfortable with a situation seek out a teacher or an administrator.

**Remember, learning is a journey, it is not a race – it continues for a lifetime.**