

Dear Families and Staff

This letter is written to explain and clarify our requests that all adults involved at the Children's Center assist us in ensuring a "NUT FREE" environment. Not just peanuts but all **nuts**. We have been made aware of the tremendous risk children and adults who are allergic to nuts can face from even the smallest exposure to a piece of nut or peanut butter. Nuts can also be a choking hazard for the youngest children. The consequences are life threatening in many cases and require immediate intervention with medication, hospitalization or even life support equipment.

We ask you to help us with the implementation of our guidelines to ensure that no nuts are introduced to our environment.

1. Please be sure that you or your child are not bringing any nut product into the Center. If in doubt, please carefully check the label to see if the product was cooked in nut oil or was manufactured in a facility with nut exposure. Food may not be stored in the children's cubbies. Any food that may contain nuts must be consumed outside the Center.
2. We (sadly) cannot bring home baked items into the Center. Please read and comply with our Celebration Policy regarding what foods can be brought in.
3. All foods to be used in the classrooms must be signed in by a family member and left near the front desk. Your signature assumes that you have checked the ingredients yourself for nuts or nut exposure. The Front Desk Staff or Admin Staff member will then review the contents and sign off the food as appropriate. The last step is for the Master Teacher to verify and sign off the food after reviewing the ingredients. After review, he or she signs the form and takes the food to the Classroom. All food donations must be in their original container.

We appreciate the extra time and effort it takes to follow through on this process, and know if we all work together we can provide as safe an environment as possible to all of the children in our care.