

# The Preschool Partnership Agreement for Success in School and in Life

We recognize the preschool years as a time when children take important, new steps on their developmental journey. Children emerge from the toddler years with a sure sense of their autonomy, an emerging interest in their peers, and motor skills that will literally take them to new places and new heights. Children at this age are ready to develop the language, cognitive, and social-emotional skills that will lead to success in school and in life.

We pledge to work with you and your child to ensure a quality educational experience. We recognize that you, as a parent, are your child's first and most important teacher, and your home is the most significant learning environment, where lifelong dispositions about learning begin and develop. We invite you, your child, and your child's teachers to form a partnership that will support your child's growth and learning each day at the center and at home. In the spirit of partnership, we invite you to join us in a commitment to share in and contribute to your child's learning experience.

## Parent's Commitment

As my child's first teacher, I play an active role in helping my child become a successful learner. I will contribute to my child's learning experience by:

- spending 15–20 minutes each day reading books and sharing ideas about the stories we read
- setting aside a special place at home where my child can keep books for browsing through and for reading
- taking my child to a library or bookstore to browse and select books to borrow or buy
- setting a good example by letting my child see me reading and writing regularly, whether I'm reading a newspaper, magazine, or book, or writing a letter
- talking with my child, asking questions about my child's experiences, asking open-ended questions, and listening to the ideas my child wants to share
- taking advantage of everyday opportunities to develop my child's emerging skills in math and science such as counting and recognizing numbers, building with blocks, cooking, and exploring the outdoors
- taking time to answer the many questions my child asks to make sense of the world
- planning for family dinnertime discussions, when we are able to come together as a family, share a meal, and talk
- communicating with my child's teachers on a regular basis
- participating, whenever possible, in classroom and recommended at-home activities.

*Signature of parent(s) or guardian(s)* \_\_\_\_\_

## Child's Commitment

As a learner, I am an active participant in learning activities at the center and at home. Each day as I interact with you—my parent and my teacher—I will

- be myself—a child full of wonder and curiosity about the world and everything in it
- test my emerging ideas and powers
- develop at my own rate and in a way that integrates my interests and enthusiasm
- express myself by letting you know what I think and how I feel, using words, facial expressions, and actions
- learn by experiencing new sensations, activities, ideas, and people.

*Signature (mark) of child* \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher's Commitment

As your partner, I agree to work with you and your child as a partner in creating successful learning experiences by:

- encouraging your child's unique capabilities and interests
- integrating language arts, math, and science throughout the homebase curriculum to nurture your child's love of language, science, mathematics, and lifelong learning
- sharing stories and books with your child each day
- creating a classroom environment where your child can learn the importance of books and print and respect and take care of books at the center
- giving your child opportunities to express ideas and see those ideas recorded in print, as a way to begin to explore the excitement of the written word
- encouraging your child to develop through daily conversations the speaking and listening skills that are the foundations of learning and success in school
- encouraging your child's natural curiosity about the world by providing an experientially rich environment to explore
- encouraging your child's emerging competence for systematic inquiry, observation, reflection, and communication
- communicating with you regularly about our homebase curriculum and about your child's learning and interests, and welcoming your communication in return
- inviting you to participate in homebase activities on a regular basis
- sharing suggestions for at-home activities that support your involvement and extend your child's learning.

*Signature of primary caregiver* \_\_\_\_\_