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SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear Parents,

In the blink of an eye, school has started once again. The end of August is always bittersweet for us at the center as some children move on to different districts, begin 4K, or are no longer with us for full days. That is part of life in early childhood and we are so grateful to be part of so many wonderful families' lives. I often think about all the children who have passed through Grandma's House and wonder where they are now. It is always fun to run into families we have not seen in a while.

The Fall Program brings many new families and the September newsletter is a great time to share important information and reminders with everyone.

Attendance

If your child is scheduled to attend but will not be coming, please send an app message or call us before 10:00 a.m. If we have not heard from you by then, we will send a message or call to check in. This procedure helps us make sure every child who is expected to be here is safe.

Water Bottles

We ask that each child have a water bottle at the center. This helps reduce the use of plastic cups and ensures children have water available when they are thirsty. We refill bottles as needed, but we do not wash them, so please take them home regularly for cleaning. Many bottles have straws, and mold can build up inside them. If you pick up outside, water bottles are usually in the baskets hanging on the fence.

Early Closing Dates

Twice a year, we close at 3:00 p.m.: the Friday before the Summer Program begins and the Friday before the Fall Program begins. These dates, along with other closing dates, are posted on the doors and on the website one year in advance.

Ongoing Evaluations and Conferences

All children, except those who leave for school during the day, will have ongoing evaluations based on teacher observations. Our lesson plans include activities connected to the skills we are observing. These continuous observations help us track milestones and share what we notice with families.

Sometimes we see things at the center that may not be seen at home and sometimes families see things at home that we do not see here. That is all okay. If we have a concern, we will discuss it with you, and we encourage you to share any concerns with us as well. We also offer formal in-person conferences every October and April. We want to be partners with you.

Our Play-Based Program

Grandma's House has always been, and will always be, a play-based program. Play is your child's work, but that does not mean it is a free-for-all. We carefully plan our environment and activities around play, and children learn so much through those experiences.

You will not see worksheets, but you will see many creative items made from your child's imagination. Sometimes you may only hear about an experience because not every activity has a tangible end product. The art we do here is called process art, where the experience and materials are the most important parts. For example, instead of asking every child to make the same duck during a pond theme, teachers may offer glue, feathers, paint, and paper and allow the children to create in their own way.

Clothing, Shoes, and Pull-Ups

Please keep an eye on your child's cubby to make sure it has weather-appropriate clothing and extra clothes in case of accidents. An extra pair of shoes is also helpful, especially if your child is potty training. If your child wears pull-ups, please send the kind that open on the sides rather than the 360-style pull-ups. We change 12–15 children four or five times a

day, and side-opening pull-ups make the process much easier because children do not need to fully undress.

Handbook, Sick Policy, and Vacation Requests

It may have been a while since you reviewed our Family Handbook and that is okay. If you need another copy, I am happy to provide one. One question I am often asked is about the sick policy: credit is given for the second week a child is absent due to illness; individual sick days are not credited.

Vacation Requests work differently depending on your child's age. For children under two, vacation is requested one week at a time for tuition credit. For children over two, single days may be requested off to receive tuition credit. Both require seven days' notice in order to receive tuition credit.

These are the main topics I am asked about most often, or that teachers have asked me to include in a newsletter. If you have any questions, please reach out.

Upcoming Events

Please also mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Picture Day is September 10. Ms. Kelly will be taking photographs that day, and more information will follow.
- We will have a Family Night on the evening of Hartland's Business Trick or Treat, Thursday, October 22. Please mark your calendars; it is always a fun night.
- We are hoping the pumpkins growing out back will be ready by October. The children enjoy growing things and watching the changes day by day.

Thanks,
Jane Sweet, Director
jsweet@grandmashouse.org





BOOKMARK this...

Grandma's House Hartland

Vacation Request

Expense Statement Request

Child Assessments

Respiratory Virus Guidance



Grandma's House Annual Family Picnic



2	Ms. Keurstyn
3	Callen C.
3	Talia S.
10	Alaina G.
12	Ms. Kelly
13	Safi A.
13	Millie H.
14	Ms. Lindsey
17	Ms. Bree
19	Robby W.
20	Greyson S.
22	Ms. Faith
25	Landon F.
25	Archer K.



*On celebrating anniversaries with
Grandma's House*

Ms. Emily	4 Years
Ms. Ashley	3 Years
Ms. Carie	2 Years

