

Social goals for E1 and E2

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

We are always willing to meet with parents, but not unannounced, before class, unless it's very important, or it's just a quick question. We prefer to schedule a meeting time with you, if it is something that requires a longer discussion. You can pop in before school starts, to organize a time to meet, however, or contact teachers via the school Intranet. We try and check the Intranet every week night.

PARENT MEETINGS

There are usually 1 or 2 class meetings during the school year. The meetings are a forum for communication, allowing teachers to give information, trade ideas, plan shared activities and get to know parents. The planning of the class meeting is the responsibility of the class teachers. All parents are welcome to contribute to the agenda. We hope that each child is represented when the meetings are held. Your presence and contribution are important in helping to ensure that we have a well-functioning class. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed to parents.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

At the first class meeting, the parents of the class elect one or two parents to represent the class at the Parent Council meetings. These meetings are an important forum, since every class in the school is represented.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

There are two planned Parent Consultations during the school year, one in the autumn and one in the spring. These consultations give parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss each child's progress on an individual basis.

Sometimes, if a child has special challenges, it may be necessary to hold extra meetings between parents, teachers and Playschool staff.

WEEKLY PLAN

Class teachers publish a weekly plan on the school's intranet. Parents (and students, once they are old enough) are expected to read these, so that they are aware of the activities planned in the coming week (special events, projects, trips, homework etc.) These weekly plans are the cornerstone of our home/school communication.

BEING PREPARED FOR CLASS

In order for children to thrive and learn, they must be motivated and receptive, and as parents, you play a big role in this process. You can help them in the following ways -

- Your child should be well rested (Kindergarten children need 11-12 hour sleep) and should have eaten breakfast, before school starts.
- They should have all the necessary things in their school bags (pencil case/lunch box/homework folder etc.)
- They should be in school on time.
- They should have appropriate clothing for the weather.
- Having read the weekly plan, you should prepare them for any changes that will occur during the day.
- They should be in a fit state to socialize and play with classmates.

PUNCTUALITY

The first lesson usually starts at 9:00. Children should be on time. It is very disruptive when a child arrives late. A child who is chronically late misses out on lessons, projects and class trips. They also disturb a lesson already in session. Of course there are situations when being late is unavoidable. If your child is late, he/she should come into the classroom quietly!

SCHOOL BAG

Choose a school bag that is a suitable size for your child. A rule of thumb says that a child should carry no more than the equivalent of one fifth of their weight. The bag should have several compartments (so that it is easy for your child to access their things) and be big enough to contain a pencil case, a lunch box, and an A4 sized folder.

The pencil case does not need to be massive, but it should be able to hold a few pencils, and coloured pencils, a rubber and a pencil sharpener.

On trip days, a smaller bag may be more useful than the usual school bag.

Remember to check both the bag and the pencil case on a regular basis. It's surprising what can appear (or disappear) in a very short time.

DAYS OFF

Over the last few years, we have seen a growing tendency for families to take children on holiday during school time. We ask that you avoid this, as far as possible, as it is disruptive, both for your child, and for the social harmony of the class. Of course, we understand that as international families, this may sometimes be necessary (to attend a family celebration, for example.) We do not provide school work for children who are out of school, travelling.

We also ask you to avoid taking your child out for cosy "hygge" days, if possible.

ILLNESS

If your child is absent from school, please send the class teacher a mail on the Intranet.

LICE

Please check your son/daughter's hair regularly for lice, as they appear to be an on-going problem throughout the school. If you know that your child has lice, please take action immediately and inform us of the situation! A child with lice should be kept at home until the problem has been sorted out. (We suggest you check your child's head every weekend, as this gives time to discover any "visitors" and deal with them!)

CONFLICTS

We deal with conflicts as and when they occur. We try and resolve problems by talking things through, and allowing everyone to explain what happened, from their point of view. Our goal is to help children learn to listen to each other, to try and show consideration, and take care of one another.

We encourage the children to come and ask for help when sorting out problems, until they are old enough to do it themselves.

As they develop, we also try to teach them how to shrug off small problems, instead of treating every incident as a major infringement.

CLASS MEETINGS

We hold class meetings on a regular basis. Here, we discuss coming events, funny things that have happened, and problems that have arisen. We also talk about things generally, and ask or answer questions. Everybody has a chance to be heard.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student council is really an extension of the class meetings. It consists of two representatives from each class, who meet up to discuss whole school issues. Sometimes, the ideas raised by the student council are brought before the staff, for teachers and pedagogues to discuss. This can result in changes being made in school. In The Little House, children begin taking part in the student council, when they enter second grade, at the start of E2.

JOB CHART

Children are given various jobs to do in the different classes. These usually involve such things as collecting the milk at lunchtime, cleaning the tables after lunch, emptying the bin, and the recycling bins etc. Children usually work in pairs, and take it in turns to do these tasks. Each classroom has a

chart, outlining these tasks. We want to encourage our students to take pride in their surroundings, and to recognize that keeping their classroom looking good is a joint responsibility.

E1 COSY HOUR/FRIDAY SNACK

E1 has a cosy hour, in the lesson after lunch, on Fridays. Here, parents take it in turns to provide a snack, and the children are allowed to draw while they listen to a story. There will be a sign-up list on the classroom door, for parents to write on, saying which week they'll provide the snack. It can be fruit, bread rolls or whatever you choose, as long as it's not too unhealthy!

BIRTHDAYS

In E1, if there is a birthday during the week, the child's birthday will be celebrated on Friday afternoon, instead of the cosy hour and Friday snack. In E2, the celebration day may vary. After lunch, on that day, we will enjoy whatever goodies the birthday boy/girl has brought. Parents are welcome to bring in cake or other food to celebrate the birthday at school, but they should bring it ready to eat, in case time is tight. The child is then presented with a small birthday gift, bought with money from the class bank, and a birthday book, made by everyone in the class.

All home-based parties should involve gift giving by the children. **Children should bring a homemade gift, which could be a drawing, a cookie, a flower, etc.** It is possible to hold a birthday party in school, during Playschool time. This needs to be co-ordinated with Playschool staff.

It is important to remember that you should invite the **whole** class to birthdays. It is hurtful for a child to be left out, and it creates social problems within the class.

RED AND BLUE GROUPS

Each of the classes in The Little House consists of two separate grades. In E1 and E2, the younger grade is known as Blue group, and the older grade is known as Red group.

PLAY DATES

We try and promote positive social interaction in the class by suggesting that during the course of the first year of school, each child should have a play date with every other member of the class. In order to avoid the formation of cliques within the class, we also have a rule that says a child should have play dates with a maximum of **two** other classmates at a time. These simple rules have proved to be successful in helping unite the classes.

TRIP PARTNERS

At the start of each new school year, we divide the children into pairs, so that every member of the class has a trip partner. Usually, this pairing will be made up of one child from the younger grade, and one from the older one. We divide into these pairs when we go out of school on a trip.

BREAK TIME/HOUSE DUTY

At our school, the bell only rings twice a day - once at 9.00, and again at 12.10 (the end of lunchtime.) Although our timetable has lessons which are 45 minutes long, followed by a five minute break, we do not follow this rigid structure in the younger grades. When we can feel that the class needs a pause, we take a break. Many lessons are with the class teacher, so it is possible to be flexible.

Unlike nursery school, these breaks are usually without adult supervision. Children are encouraged to develop social skills here, such as listening to others, co operating in a game, helping one another etc. If problems do arise, children can go inside to get help from an adult.

We have a half hour break at lunchtime, where the children play outside. During this time, there are two adults on playground duty, plus an adult who is on house duty inside TLH.

TOYS AND TOY DAY

As a general rule, toys are not allowed in school, but each of the lower grade classes have toy days. The rules differ from class to class, but in E1 and E2, the toy days are always the first Friday after a holiday. Toys should be small and inexpensive, as any toy brought in has to be kept in a school bag until big break, or Playschool, and will not be replaced by school if broken! For that reason, no one should bring a favourite toy.

FRIENDSHIP CLASSES

E1 and E4 are friendship classes. In August, each E1 students will be given an E4 partner. We try and organize several events together, throughout the school year. These can include such things as going out on trips together, trick or treating around the school at Halloween, or sitting for a lesson, and making something. For new children, it gives added confidence to have a "big friend" in school, and for the older classes, it helps develop a sense of responsibility.

Sometimes E2 has a friendship class in the Danish section, but this differs from year to year, as much depends on the timetables of the classes involved.

SHARED EXPERIENCES

When children start in school, we try and teach them how to develop independence, initially through such things as looking after their own possessions, fastening their own jackets, tying their own shoes laces etc. They also need to learn how to listen to instructions, and how to be one part of a large group. We try and facilitate these things on an everyday basis. We have observed that these things can be strengthened quickly, through shared experiences, such as class trips, project work, sports days, celebrations, etc. We also build a store of shared memories, which help bind the class together. Working on a set of classroom rules together at the beginning of each year also helps us identify ways in which we can help each other as part of a group.

CROSS GRADE ACTIVITIES

Sometimes, children work with others from different grades. At Christmas time, E1 and E2 join together to make gifts for friends and family. The children are put into groups spanning from Reception class (kindergarten) to Second grade.

Twice a year, TLH goes out on a whole house trip, where we try to find activities suitable for all age groups.

Each year, School holds either a Topic week or a Spring Party week. For both, children work in mixed groups, made up of children from all grades, and from both the Danish section, and TLH.

These events help children see school in a wider context.

LUNCH AND 10 SNACK

Many of the children feel hungry way before lunchtime, therefore we ask that you pack a small snack for them to eat at around 10.00 (ten snack!) This could be a piece of fruit, or a handful of nuts etc. It needs to be wrapped separately from their lunch, and be placed somewhere easy to access, in their bags.

Please try and give your child a healthy lunch to eat in school - no sweets, cake, chocolate etc. thank you.

SHOE LACES ETC

In school, we have fewer adult resources than they have in Nursery school, so dress your children in clothes/shoes/jackets that they can put on and take off themselves. Part of the new experience of being in school is to begin to become more independent, and this is a good place to start.

THE E2 FOOD CLUB

The E2 Food club is a popular activity which is basically run by the parents. Staff put the children into random groups. Children take turns to invite their group to eat in their homes, once during the school year. This after school activity enhances friendships, and helps prevent the formation of cliques within the class.

SCHOOL START

The transition from kindergarten to school can be a huge step for some children. It is, therefore, a good idea to spend extra time with your child before the school year begins, and during the first few weeks of term, so that the transition will be as smooth as possible.

At school, they will learn to find the difficult balance between "me and my needs" and "others and their needs", while at the same time learning to function in a group where they, along with their class teacher and pedagogue, agree on class rules on how to treat one another respectfully. Many children tire easily at the beginning of a school year, and are exhausted when they come home from school - so much energy is used simply adapting to a new environment, new people, (children and adults), new ways of doing things and a different daily structure.

ACTIVITIES WHICH STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILDREN IN TLH AND THE DANISH DEPARTMENT IN THE LOWER SCHOOL.

A Mini Sports Day held annually in ØregårdsPark where all children from the Lower School in both TLH and the Danish department partake in joint sports activities.

Morning play school and holiday play school enable the children in the Lower School of both TLH and the Danish department to meet one another. Additionally, play school arranges several joint activities throughout the school year for all children in the Lower School where they can meet each other – Sports Day and The Stage Is Yours.

Fastelavn is celebrated together every year in February by all the children in the lower school in the big gym.

Every other year, TLH Lower School children invite the children from the Lower School in the Danish department to celebrate Halloween with them in TLH.

All classes in the Lower School invite each other to their Fællestimes.

All children in the Lower School participate in the school's joint arrangements, such as, Topic Week, Spring Party, Xmas Party, Music Fællestime and Sports Day in Dyrehaven.

All children in the Lower School from TLH and the Danish Department have the opportunity to play and talk together daily in the school playground during break time and in play school time. There is also a Dance Club which all children from both departments may attend.

From Andrea and Emer

