



26 Computer Drive East Keys • Albany • New York • 12205
www.spottedzebra.org

Dear Spotted Zebra Parent,

This letter is written to advise all families that the Spotted Zebra Learning Center is “**NUT FREE**”. Please know that we have several children in multi classrooms this school year that have a significant allergy to nuts. Even the smallest taste of peanut butter or a piece of tree nut can result in a life threatening situation for these children which may require immediate intervention with medication, hospitalization or even life support. We want to do all we can to eliminate the possibility of such an occurrence at the Spotted Zebra. Hence we need your help to do this.

Please be advised that we will be adhering to the following guidelines:

1. **All** families must honor the **no nut policy** when planning and packing their child's food for the day. We ask that no foods containing nuts or tree nut products be brought into the Center.
2. **All** families should read labels carefully to avoid packing lunch items which contain nuts (peanut butter crackers, Honey Nut Cheerios, M&M's, chocolate candy, granola bars, etc.) or specifically state that they are produced in facilities that also manufacture nut containing products (machines may be cross contaminated). Please see the attachment entitled “How to Read a Label” for more specific information. If you are still unclear as to whether the item contains nut products, there is also a 1-800 number on all packaging.
3. For **all** families, if your child is celebrating his/her birthday, please talk with the teachers several days prior if you plan on bringing in a birthday treat such as ice cream, cake etc... Birthday treats that have nuts or have been made in facilities that also produce nut products on the same equipment (as per the ingredient label) should not be brought to the school and will not be served. If you are ordering bakery items please note that most bakeries will not guarantee that their items are free of cross-contamination.
4. For **all** families, if your child consumes nut products at home, please make sure his/her hands are washed before he/she comes to school.

We recognize that for some children with limited diets that excluding certain foods from their lunch might be challenging. Thus please talk to us and we will try and problem solve the situation.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in helping us to successfully address this important issue. Should you wish to contact me directly, please do not hesitate to do so.

Best,

Sheri Townsend

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for kids of all stripes