



September 9, 2011

Dear Parents,

Soon we will be starting this year's home-based learning program, the "Take-Home Backpack Program." Periodically, we will be sending your child home with a backpack, containing a book and an associated learning activity. This program will be available to children in our 4- and 5-year-old classes.

The books and activities will be varied – but all will have a specific learning objective. Some will encourage pre-literacy skills, some will foster critical thinking, others will be math, art, or science oriented.

These backpacks will be sent home on Fridays, and will be due back the following Friday. It is important that the backpacks be returned promptly, so that they can be checked, restocked with materials, and sent out to another family the following week.

**New for this year** the backpacks will go home on **Fridays** and will be due back the following **Friday**. This will allow families a longer time to complete the activities in the backpack. It will also accommodate those families whose schedules find that working on the backpacks during the week, when older siblings have homework, to be able to do it then, rather than just on the weekend. Of course, you may continue to work on it just during the weekend if you prefer. It continues to be important that they are returned in a timely manner when done. Families will not receive the next backpack if they have not returned their previous backpack.

It is important for you to have the following supplies at home in order to complete some of the activities: glue, markers, crayons, and child-safe scissors. This program is designed to encourage literacy and learning as a family activity. **It is, therefore, important that children be supervised at all times when using the materials in the backpack, including the books.**

In order to participate in this program, you must complete the attached Registration Form and Agreement (*both sides*). Please return these to your child's teachers by Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each registrant will be sent a program notebook, which will contain instructions for each backpack, as well as suggestions for follow-up activities. **It is important that you keep the notebook for the duration of the program.**

Backpacks will normally come home every two or three weeks. But please note that the following factors influence frequency: failure of families to return backpacks, field trips, student absence, school holidays, and classroom circumstances.

If you have any questions about this program, please be sure to call the school office.

Sincerely,

Kathy Connell  
Program Director

# Literature and Learning Registration Form

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed)

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Before registering for this program, please read and initial the following.

1. As this is a family learning program, **I will be sure to supervise my child at all times** when using the materials in the backpack, including the book(s).

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If our family loses or damages materials in the backpack, I will notify my child's teacher and will pay to have the items replaced.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I agree to return the backpack on the next **Friday** after my child brings it home.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In order to complete backpack activities, I will have the following materials available at home: glue, markers, crayons, and child-safe scissors.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. I will take care to keep the program folder. If I lose it, and it needs to be replaced, I will be charged a \$5.00 replacement fee.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Literature and Learning**  
**Agreement**

The biggest problem we have had in implementing this program is with families **NOT** returning the backpacks in a timely manner. This resulted in many families receiving far fewer backpacks than they should.

This year, we are emphasizing that backpacks are **DUE** back the following Friday. All efforts should be made in returning the backpack on Friday. It is now absolutely critical that they be returned on time. Repeated failure to do so will result in your family being dropped from the program.

Please sign below to indicate you understand that the backpacks **MUST** be returned by the following Friday.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name/Class: \_\_\_\_\_