

Policy Title: Clothing & Personal Items for Children

Issue Date: 8/2000

Policy Number: Faculty-4

Body of Origin: Faculty

Policy Approval/Reviewal Authority: Faculty

Purpose:

Part of what makes a Waldorf school special is the attention given to creating an environment that is aesthetically inviting. When a child is surrounded by beauty, beauty is reflected within him or her and allowed to grow and flourish. For this reason, the clothing guidelines requested of parents who send their children to a Waldorf school differ from other schools.

Policy Details:

Weather appropriate clothing:

Young children do not always have a true understanding of their body temperature. Because so much of a child's energy is put into growth and development, it is essential to dress them warmly. This includes wool socks in the winter months, layers of clothing, cold weather hats in winter and sun hats in fall and spring. A waterproof layer in rain and snow helps children maintain their warmth.

Outdoor play is a regular part of the school day. All children should be provided with gloves, hats, warm, waterproof outdoor clothes, and footwear appropriate to the season (boots, hat, mittens, scarves, coat and snowpants in winter; raincoat, rainpants and boots during spring - no umbrellas please) so that they can play comfortably outdoors, and come into the school warm and dry. The use of sunhats and sunscreen are encouraged in the late summer, early fall and late spring. Please follow your class guidelines regarding indoor shoes. Bare feet are not allowed. Early Childhood children should leave a change of clothing at school.

Appropriate Grooming:

Parents are asked to send their children to school bathed, combed and dressed in clothing that is clean and well cared for, without holes. This helps instill a child's respect for self and others and creates a healthy learning environment.

Dress Code:

Children should be sent to school in clothes that are free of commercial logos and characters. Shirts with spaghetti straps, low cut shirts and bare midriffs are not allowed. Short skirts may be worn with shorts so the child is free to play vigorously. Please also avoid clothing that has slogans or sayings, eg "Princess". The wearing of watches is discouraged below 3rd grade so the child can flow through the day without being time conscious. When children in older grades do wear watches we encourage the use of analog, rather than digital watches. Jewelry is strongly discouraged by the Early Childhood and Kindergarten students. Small, modest, pierced earrings may be worn if they are safe and not removed by the child. Indoor shoes need to be sturdy, comfortable shoes that will stay on the feet. No open-backed shoes please. They interfere with movement in play, activities and circle times. We encourage indoor

shoes with non-slip soles. Outdoor shoes should protect the foot and keep the child warm and dry. Young children should be able to put on their own shoes with minimal help. Please do not purchase shoes that light up, make noises or have logos or characters on them. Socks and athletic shoes are required for participation in games classes. Children are very active on the playground and need shoes that support the feet and ankles.

Personal Items

Please make sure the following items are left at home: Toys, including books, stuffed animals and trading cards should be kept at home. The school has toys and playthings appropriate for the curriculum. Video games, tapes, CD's, cell phones, DVD's and MP3 players (or any other electronic device or toy) are not used in the Waldorf early childhood, grades, or aftercare program. **Please do not bring these items to school.** Electronic items will be confiscated and taken to the office; available for pickup only by a parent. If there is a second infraction, the device will be confiscated and returned to the parent at the end of the school year. If a child needs a cell phone for emergency use, it must remain in the office during the school day. The phone may be used after school hours, either in front of the building or in the office.

Applicability/Consequences for non-compliance: This policy applies to all students at TRS. Consequences for non-compliance will be administered according to the school's discipline policy (reference policy number).

Contact Information: Questions related to this policy may be directed to the child's classroom teacher or to the school administrator.