

MorningStar Preschool Parent Handbook

WELCOME TO MORNINGSTAR!

We're happy to have you as part of our school family. Our teachers are experienced early childhood educators. They participate in professional education programs so they understand the needs of today's families. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's Mentor Teacher or the Director.

At Morning Star curriculum and methodology is based on the ancient tradition of astaunga yoga. In yoga education we invite children to master new skills at their own pace, to foster self-confidence and independence in a warm and loving atmosphere. It is our goal to support children by educating the whole child --the physical, the social, the emotional, the creative, the intellectual and the intuitional self and to take advantage of every opportunity to enable each child to realize their fullest potential. The core of our curriculum, as of all yoga, is relationship building, sustaining positivity, and connection with our self, others, and all living beings.

We offer a full day program of learning and recreation for children 2 1/2 to 5 years of age, Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 5:45 pm. We can accept up to 15 students every day.

ABSENCES

Tuition is still due and payable when a child is not in attendance due to illness, vacation, holiday, and snow days, personal and environmental reasons. The staff appreciates a notification if your child cannot come in or will be absent for a while (we worry).

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Any staff member who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subject to abuse or neglect shall immediately report such suspicions to the Director and a report submitted to the Department of Human Services 720-944-3000. We are mandated to report any suspicious occurrences.

If there is significant evidence that a staff member may have imposed abuse or neglect upon a child, an internal investigation conducted by the Director and members of the Governing Board will ensue which may require that the employee be placed in a non-supervisory position until the investigation is completed.

In the event of a student who is abusing another student(s), the parents will be notified and attempts will be made to resolve the problem. Notice will be given whenever possible if termination is required.

ACCIDENTS

If your child is involved in an accident/injury, first aid shall be provided. An Accident Report and phone call by a witnessing teacher will be provided to the parents. If it is decided that the injury is of an emergency nature, paramedics will be called and an Injury Report submitted to Social Services. The child's physician may be contacted.

ACTIVITIES AND CURRICULUM

Painting, songs, block construction, play dough, puppets, manipulatives, drawing, rhymes, puzzles, drama, neighborhood walks, socio-emotional role playing, puppet shows, cutting & pasting, yoga, nature study, dramatic play, physical activities self-help exercises are a few of the activities that are generally incorporated into our weekly programs as well as literacy,

math, and science experiences. We have a collective curriculum and theme study as well as customized individual curriculum for each child. All activities are age appropriate.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Please review our tentative schedule of activities for this year at the end of this documents. It is subject to change.

ADMISSION

There will be a pre-admission interview with each child's parents or guardians. The parent/guardian shall submit a statement of the child's current health status and immunization record before the child's first day of school. A new health statement will be submitted annually in a timely manner. A visit by the child prior to admission is preferred.

At the time of admission, the enrolling family will provide Morning Star with the phone numbers of the child's physician and where the parent(s) and at least one other responsible adult who can normally be reached in the event of an emergency, parental permission for excursions, the emergency medication authorization and other required documents. These documents will need to be re-certified by the parents every year. Morning Star staff will give families 30 days' notice prior to expiration.

A non-refundable registration fee will be paid in addition to at least one week's tuition at the time of entry. A reasonable effort will be made to accommodate children with special needs and to integrate them with other students in accordance with the American Disabilities Act. An orientation meeting will familiarize parents with Morning Star's systems.

Children may attend for short periods of time prior to the First Day.

ANTIBIAS

Morning Star does not discriminate against children or their families or show favoritism based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, disability, ability, status, behavior, culture, or beliefs. To maximize each child's potential, Morning Star may implement adaptations in teaching strategies, environment, curricula, etc. as well as advocate for the child by consulting with the family, specialists, and other community agencies.

ARRIVAL AND PICK UP TIMES

Please bring your child no later than 8:30 a.m. if this is not possible the next best time is 11:00 a.m. Please observe and respect these designated times to minimize class interruptions during the Morning Enrichment Time. Your child is to be picked up BEFORE 5:45 p.m. There is a \$15 late fee if you arrive after 6 p.m. Children who are not picked up may be transported to the Crisis Center as per State Regulations.

Sign your child in and out of the school each day on the Sign-In Sheet. Messages and other communications may be left for you in your child's mailbox. If your child is to go home with another adult, be sure to leave a note or telephone us detailing this information. We can only release your child to you or the designated adult(s) on your Admission Form. We cannot release your child to anyone else without your verbal permission.

BABYSITTING

As preschool teachers, our job demands are highly stressful. We ask that parents not ask our staff to engage in this service. Thank you.

CLOTHING & PERSONAL ITEMS

Please label your child's name/ initials inside jacket, boots, mittens, etc. Please bring your child in clothing your child can zip or button and put on him/herself including velcro or user friendly shoes and elastic waistband pants for young kiddos who are toilet learning. Snaps and buckles are challenging for children and most children do not tie shoes until 5 or 6 years of age!

Boots, snow pants, hats, waterproof mittens and warm jackets for cold weather and snow play are a must. We go outside every day unless the weather is sub-zero.

Please leave one full change of seasonally appropriate clothing including socks and underwear in your child's Extra Clothing Cubby by the bathroom as well as a blanket and fitted sheet in a water resistant bag on the Nap Gear Shelves.

Coats and outdoor clothing are kept in the foyer in waterproof bags.

Nap items are put in waterproof bags in the West Room. Personal items that your child may require throughout the day may be kept in Nap Bags for personal convenience.

Toys, clothing and/or costumes that represent media characters, action heroes, or toy weapons are not acceptable at Morning Star!

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

MorningStar frequently collaborates with other members of the Denver community including the Mental Health Center of Denver, Child Find, the Speech Hearing and Language Center, Teddy Bear Portraits, Caring for Kids Nurse Consulting, Noeticus Counseling Center and Training Institute as well as providing community resource referrals and information concerning food banks, health care organizations, etc. Please note that MorningStar will try to set up an in-house speech, hearing, and vision screening annually which is contingent on a minimum of 15 students registering for the screening.

DAYS CLOSED and INCLEMENT WEATHER

We provide full time, year round care with the exception of being closed for two teacher in-service days and all major holidays. Our holiday days off include: New Year's, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day (2 days), Christmas (1-2 days). Morning Star usually follows the Denver Public School schedule in regards to closing for hazardous snow or ice conditions. Staff will try to contact parents by text and/or email in the event of an anticipated Snow Day or closure. On the occasion that MorningStar has to close due to Snow Days, for health reasons, etc.; the parents will be expected to pay for those days. Parents are always encouraged to contact the school, Mentor Teacher or the Director concerning closing information. When the weather is excessively hot or cold, outside exposure will be minimized.

DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE GUIDANCE

Degrees of discipline may vary according to the nature of the activity concerned. When a child misbehaves or acts aggressively, the teacher will briefly discuss the problem and endeavor to help the child understand the difficulty of the situation and why another behavioral choice is preferable. If the behavior occurs a second time, a firmer approach utilizing various non-punitive measures such as verbal acknowledgement, rewards, positive reinforcement, redirection, and negotiation may be implemented. On the third time, the child may be removed from the classroom or possibly taken for a walk.

Consultations for repeated challenging behavior may result with other staff members, parents, and occasionally early childhood professionals in the community.

EMERGENCIES & EVACUATION

In the event that an emergency should arise concerning Morning Star, i.e., fire, tornado, etc., which requires leaving the building, we will gather at St Johns Church at 14th and

Washington.

In the event of a tornado when Civil Defense alarms are activated, all will exit to the basement in a calm and orderly manner. One staff member will monitor the tornado status. There is easy evacuation from the building in the event of fire or other emergencies. Parents will be notified in either event.

If there is a danger in the neighborhood and the school is in lockdown as ordered by the police, all doors will be locked and no one may enter or leave until released by the police. All parents will be notified.

FIELD TRIP

Occasionally children and teachers may go on a walk around the neighborhood. Other extended trips require the use of parent volunteers and vehicles. All parents are required to have the appropriate insurance and meet vehicle safety regulations. Children must have safe car seats positioned in the back seat with secure seat belts. Parents are notified in advance and student emergency information is taken with the Person in Charge. Adult/Student ratios are generally 1:3 or 4. Children are closely supervised at all times. Drivers have emergency contact information, first aid kits, and directions. Drivers will contact the Person in Charge if there are any problems.

FIRE DRILLS

It is important that the children are trained to respond quickly and in an orderly way. Fire drills and other emergency procedure are conducted once a month.

FOOD - Snacks and Lunch

We provide mid-morning and afternoon snacks daily. Morning Star is committed to providing nutritional snacks low in additives, salt and sugar. In accordance with State Guidelines each snack offers a fruit and bread product, supplemented with milk and/or water. Every child will need a labeled water bottle. Please notify us of any special dietary restrictions, preferences or allergies.

Children are required to bring **labeled lunches** from home. We prefer “ready-to-go” meals that do not require heating and children having to wait. Lunches must be packaged in multi-unit or individual containers (i.e., Tupperware) and a child’s sized reusable lunch box. Lunches brought in plastic grocery bags or packaged in plastic baggies are not permitted by State Regulation. Eating utensils are provided. Lunches must comply with State Regulations regarding nutritional content.

These include:

- 1) Protein source: meat, poultry, fish, eggs, cooked dried beans/peas, cheese or peanut butter;**
- 2) 2 Vegetables, 2 fruits, OR 1 fruit and 1 vegetable;**
- 3) Grain: cereal, whole grain/enriched bread product, crackers or pastas;**
- 4) Dairy product.**

If the meal brought from home does not appear to meet these nutritional requirements, the center is obliged to supplement the meal. The parent will be billed \$5 for each meal that needs to be supplemented. In the event that lunch is forgotten Morning Star will provide the child with a nutritionally compliant meal and the parent(s) will be charged \$10. During lunch, children are encouraged to eat their “healthy foods” before eating their treats. Some restrictions regarding what may be in a lunch may occur if there are students with food allergies.

While every effort will be made to accommodate family food preferences (i.e. different milks, gluten free), occasionally we may request some parental assistance to ensure compliance with your family preferences and needs.

LOW SUGAR cupcakes, breads, cookies, frozen foods or other special snacks are acceptable on your child's birthday.

GENERAL CARE

All children are under direct teacher supervision at all times. Students are not allowed in any classroom or outside without a teacher present to supervise. Staff will engage in regular attendance verification throughout the day. Children need to be dressed appropriately for the weather before going outside

GRIEVANCES

In the event that you have a grievance with some aspect of Morning Star that has not been resolved to your satisfaction, you may present your complaint to the Director and/or the Governing Board. The Local Chair is Kate Donnelly-Anderson. She may be reached at 303-300-0410. You may also file a complaint with Department of Human Services number posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Information concerning pediatric dental care and other medical information shall be distributed to parents upon registration and is available in the Parent Resource Library.

HOME LANGUAGE

MorningStar currently has a staff member who is fluent in Spanish who is available to assist and support teacher/student/parent communications, including sharing information about policies, procedure, etc. The Director and Mentor Teacher shall make every effort to obtain translators for other language needs upon request.

ILLNESS

Please keep your child home if s/he has exhibited any of the following symptoms within 24 hours: fever, nausea, diarrhea, unknown rash, vomiting, etc. If your child manifests any of these symptoms, we will contact you to pick up your child so that s/he may receive the attention required. If a child is unable to participate in school activities or is lethargic, they may be sent home.

Notify the staff if your child has a contagious sickness. If your doctor has confirmed a virus or other illness, i.e, norovirus; please notify the staff immediately. If a child has contracted a confirmed case of norovirus, s/he will be excluded for 48 hours.

Use the following guidelines for determining whether a sick student is ready to return to school:

- **The student must be fever-free for 24 hours WITHOUT medication.**
- **The student must stay home for 24 hours WITHOUT medication after last episode of vomiting.**
- **The student must stay home for 24 hours WITHOUT medication after last episode of diarrhea.**

If your child becomes ill during the day, s/he will be isolated from the students and will rest until parent(s) are contacted and come to pick up the child. In the event that we are unable to reach you, your alternate adult and/or physician may be contacted. Sick children should remain

home for 24 hours before returning to Morning Star. There are times when the Director may extend the time period of when children may return to MorningStar after exhibiting an illness from 24 hours to 48 hours when necessary.

LATE ARRIVAL

In the event that parents arrive after 8:45 a.m., your child will be invited to attend the most available class at the time that may or may not be your child's regular class. If parents arrive when the class or school are on a field trip, a notice will be posted on the door regarding our location, our anticipated time of return, and a phone number of where we can be reached (whenever possible). In the event that it is 5:45 p.m. and no one has come to pick up your child, every effort will be made to contact the parents and emergency person before referring your child to the Crisis Center. Teachers will inspect the entire school at the close of each day to ascertain that every child was properly released.

LOST CHILD

Should a child become lost while in our care, the procedures for recovery are as follows: 1) The parents will be immediately informed, 2) The local law enforcement agency will be notified, and 3) Teachers will organize a search party to locate and retrieve the child.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

The State requires that we maintain on file an updated health status form and immunization record for each child. Please note that Morning Star does accept children who may choose to waive certain immunizations.

Over the counter medications (i.e. pain killers), prescription medications, or supplements can be administered to your child by an employee who has been designated by our School Nurse **ONLY IF** we have a **written Authorization Order from your physician**. Medications must be brought in their original containers with the child's name on the container with instructions for administration. They are stored in a locked container.

MENTOR TEACHER

Every student is assigned a Mentor Teacher. This teacher will monitor your child's growth and implement strategies to facilitate the all-around development of your child. S/he will send your family monthly Progress Reports and is your liaison to the school, keeping you apprised of school events and special occasions.

Our staff are constantly engaged in supervising and facilitating activities with our students. Generally, they are not in a position to chat for more than a couple minutes when you see them. Please check with your Mentor Teacher regarding when a more appropriate time to converse may be if you are needing to have a prolonged discussion regarding a concern.

Your Mentor Teacher is continually monitoring your child's progress. A Parent-Teacher Conference can be arranged at any time during the year. These are offered twice a year... in November and in the Spring. An exit interview can also be arranged prior to leaving MorningStar.

PARENT COMMUNICATION/PARTICIPATION

Morning Star welcomes visits by parents and family. Parent teacher conferences may be set up at any time so that parents may be informed of the child's behavior, progress, social, cognitive, and physical growth and development. Traditionally these are offered in the spring

and in November. Parents are referred to their pediatrician or other community specialists when there is a physical, mental or developmental concern.

Newsletters and Lesson Plans are distributed weekly and monthly **Progress Reports** are provided as well. The **MorningStar Musings**, parenting handouts with home activities for children and their families are shared monthly. Occasional information gatherings, Director Chat & Snax and parenting skills workshops are presented.

MorningStar conducts a **Parent Survey** every year to evaluate the effectiveness of our program and staff. Your improvement suggestions are also welcome prior to Parent Work Days. There is always a **Suggestion Box** in the foyer as well for your comments. Your suggestions are taken seriously and the improvements that are subsequently made are mentioned in our weekly newsletter.

Parent support is required during field trips, fundraising efforts, Work Days, laundry duty rotation, etc. A donation of \$40 is accepted if you are unable to help during Work Days. Donations are also appreciated in lieu of fundraising if desired. Your active participation enables us to keep our tuition rates at a reasonable level!

Parents bring fresh fruit (enough for 7 children) for snacks every week on their Helping Child Day. Fruit must be commercially prewashed and precut (exception: bananas, tangerines, etc.) and arrive in original bag from the grocery store. Frozen fruit is also allowed in the original bag/container. As per our latest inspection with the State – because of the way the sinks are in the kitchen – We are not permitted to cut or rinse food. Consequently, the food that we receive from your family once a week needs to be prewashed and packaged (from the factory). So we can only accept 1) baby carrots in their original packaging 2) Packaged or precut melons or other pre-cut fruits in their original plastic boxes or packaging 3) loose fruit that can be presented directly to the children top open or peel such as bananas, tangerines or oranges. We can no longer accept grapes (unless encased by original packaging, the open grapes are acceptable). We currently are not allowed to cut or rinse fruit as per 7.11.1.A.3.

Parents and community members are encouraged to assist in the facilitation of our curriculum, including **special events and presentations** whenever possible.

Please review the tentative MorningStar **Activity Calendar** in our Parent Library in the foyer.

Take Home Activity Bags are available each month for Check Out in the foyer.

PARKING

There are 3 spaces available in the Loading Zone in front of MorningStar. Please park with consideration for other parents.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND TOYS

Your child may bring soft toys. We try to protect items brought from home but we cannot be responsible for damages. We suggest you do not bring real valuable or "special" things. Toys, clothing and/or costumes that represent media characters, action heroes, or toy weapons are not acceptable at Morning Star! Students should not bring money or coins to school as these are choking hazards. Cubbies and mailboxes should be cleaned out and art work taken home at least once a week. All belongings from home are kept in your child's nap cubby. Please "change out" your child's items in the Extra Clothing Cubby with season-appropriate items.

REFERRALS

Your Mentor Teacher may recommend a referral to your pediatrician and/or other community specialists when there is a physical, mental, developmental, or behavioral concern. Some of these community agencies that we work with include Child Find, the Speech Hearing and Language Center, the Mental Health Center of Denver, and other community agencies. Referrals are based on screening assessments and teacher observations. Referral information will be provided.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

This Library contains handouts on various topics pertaining to preschool aged children, including but not limited to nutrition, children's yoga books, parenting tips (rotated monthly), community resources, Take Home Activities, and so forth. Reproduced flyers may be taken. Other items like books and activities can be checked out.

SCHEDULE

We have independent play from opening until 8:45 a.m. when we begin our morning snack. This is followed by the Morning Enrichment Program when we share rhymes, games, personal news, yoga, songs, movement activities, finger plays, theme discussions, weather/seasonal observations, a creative art activity, socio-emotional skill review, stillness exercise, outside play time, as well as math, science and literacy activities. Lunch starts at 11:15 or 12:00, depending on the class. Everyone brings their lunches from home.

Nap preparations commence at 12:00 pm for the younger students and 1:15 pm for the older students. The children generally sleep or rest until 3:30 with afternoon snack served at 4:00 pm. Then there is free play inside or out depending upon the weather until parents arrive prior to 5:45 pm. Schedules are posted in the foyer for each class.

REFUNDS

In the event of an overpayment, the credit balance will be dispersed at the earliest convenience. When there is an emergency termination or other unavoidable circumstance, the parent concerned can mediate the terms with the Director.

SECURITY

Please help us in keeping all of our children safe by remembering to keep the front door and gates closed and locked. Thank you.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

For the entire time that your child is a member of our MorningStar Community all of the children have interactions with all of our teachers as well as the Director and Office Manager every day in order to nurture a warm and loving community base and to promote strong socio-emotional bonds. This also serves to minimize stress with transitions particularly when moving from the Sunflower to the Redwood Class.

TELEVISION/VIDEO VIEWING/COMPUTER

Currently unavailable by choice.

TERMINATION OF A STUDENT

Our Morning Enrichment Program requires a teacher to be alone with 7-8 children. Occasionally a child will have such frequent behavioral challenges with self-regulation or other issues that the teacher is unable to facilitate a class.

Termination results only when all other avenues have been pursued. This occurs after consultation with a community interventionist and after some communication with parents. When staff and/or children have been the brunt of physical harm, sometimes no notice may be given due to safety concerns for other school community members.

TOILET LEARNING/SOILED CLOTHING

If your child is toilet learning, you will be requested to bring a box of wipes periodically. Mutual respect and communication between teachers and parents is vital in developing a healthy continuity between home and school. It is helpful to know what is happening at home so that we may be more sensitive to your child's needs. A child's wet or soiled clothing is changed promptly. Soiled clothing is labeled and put into the Yucky Bucket. A note will be left for the parents.

TRANSITIONS

To MorningStar

- Parents are invited to set up at least 2 or more 30 minute plus sessions when their child can come in and observe as well as participate in a class and/or free play experience prior to the First Day. These may be scheduled with and/or without the parent.
- Once attending school your child will not be required to participate in every activity and is 'eased in' to the schedule while they are settling in. Regular communications with parents by the Mentor Teacher will let the parent know how your child is adapting to the program and if any other home activities or changes can help your child 'ease into' our program.
- Concrete steps are taken between the Mentor Teacher and parents to minimize student separation anxiety, such as a family photo from home, bringing a 'stuffie', being picked up a bit early at first, playing in our playground with parents prior to First Day, and other strategies.
- This information is communicated during the Initial Parent Orientation.

To the Redwood Class from the Sunflower Class

- Because all students see and interact with all of the teachers and all of the students every day, transition into this class can be minimal. Other than an increase in academic studies and behavioral expectations, this change generally goes fairly smoothly. Your child's new Mentor Teacher will keep you apprised of any strategies that can make this transition easier.

To Kindergarten

- Your Mentor Teacher is available to answer any questions you may have regarding which Kindergartens may be most suitable to the needs and interests of your child, especially if you are attempting to 'choice-in' to another school.
- Please remember to register for Before and After School Care programs if you need coverage for a full work day.
- Teachers will be chatting with the children and the parents re about: how kindergarten may be different and how parents can help support their child through this sometimes difficult transitions. (See our handout re: this from your Mentor Teacher).
- Arranging a trip for your child to visit the new school and to continue visiting/playing in the playground there throughout the Summer can be helpful as well as attending and pre-First Day events that are sponsored by the class.

- This information is generally conveyed individually to MorningStar Kindergarten bound parents by their Mentor Teachers starting the January prior to attending Kindergarten.
- There are also Kindergarten Transition flyers which are distributed in the Summer prior to leaving MorningStar.

Individualization

- The Mentor Teacher will make arrangements for remedial activities for any student who seems to be experiencing challenges in any area of development. These activities may be supplemental opportunities that are offered at home and/or at school. This is mentioned by the Mentor Teacher to the Parents during Parent Teacher meetings. This includes potentially Gifted and Talented opportunities as well.

TUITION FEES & ANNUAL REGISTRATION

- Your tuition is due the first day of each week for the entire week.
- \$25 is charged for all late tuitions after 4 days.
- All checks and money orders are made payable to Morning Star and placed in the envelope by the mailboxes.
- We generally do not accept cash.
- Each child's weekly tuition must be paid even if the child is absent due to illness, vacations, holidays, closure, etc.
- There is a \$20 service charge on all returned checks.
- An annual registration of \$100 fee shall be paid each year usually around February 14th.
- Our current tuition rate is \$ 61 per day for full time, \$ 65 per day for part time.
- A limited number of scholarships are available.
- Fees are subject to change.

VISITORS

All visitors must receive prior approval by the Director and must register on the Visitor Log.

WITHDRAWALS

A 30 day written notice is required prior to termination of your child's enrollment.

ETC.

- If you have any concerns, the Director would love to hear your comments. Contact Wenda by phone: 720-955-6441 or email @ director.morningstar@gmail.com
- Diapering, field trip procedures, and other inspection reports are available upon request.

SPONSOR

Morning Star is a non-profit program sponsored by Ananda Marga of Denver, a local branch of the international yoga and service organization.

Baba Nam Kevalam. Love is All There Is.

Parent Activity Calendar

The following is a tentative listing of events that are facilitated at MorningStar every Year. Some of the months may change and occasionally other activities will surface as well.

January

- Photo Day: To bring parents, students, and staff together for a crazy, community experience involving waiting your turn, looking especially nice, playing games and sharing conversation, and meeting families while have individual and group photo shoots together.
- MLK Marade: To facilitate an opportunity for families, students, and staff to participate in Denver Martin Luther King Jr. event as an expression of our united commitment to friendship, diversity, and peaceful coexistence.

February

- Valentine's Party: To involve parents in the coordination and facilitation of this fun celebration with our kiddos. To build relationships with parent volunteers.

March

- Open.

April

- Parent Work Day: To give parents and children an opportunity to support the school through much needed physical labor for cleaning, repairing, painting and upgrading the physical appearance of the school. Free childcare is provided A nice time to chat and to get to know each other.
- Parent Teacher Conferences: To share information re: each child's strengths and to gather information from parents re: their goals for their children. To develop a deeper connection with parents.

May

- Creative Parenting Workshops: To make available to parents free access to the professional child therapists at the Noeticus Counseling Training Center in a safe, friendly, and confidential environment. This event includes an affordable dinner and free childcare to provide easy access for parents/families.

June

- Field Trip: To one of the local sites, i.e., Butterfly Pavilion, Denver Puppet Theatre, etc. in have an enjoyable time together. Many, many parents generally accompany the children and drive us there. A nice time to chat and get to know each other.

July

- Speech Hearing and Vision Screening: To provide a positive speech hearing and vision screening experience for all children and their families at a very reasonable rate so parents can also receive a professional screen from the Speech Hearing and Vision Center in these developmental areas. They also offer a developmental overview test as well upon request.

August

- Open or a Picnic: To have fun with each other at a Parent's Home or Park. A nice time to chat and get to know each other.

September

- Carnivation: To provide a fun family event filled with carnival games/prizes, yoga competition, and graduation. To give closure and show appreciation to the families for sharing their children with us. A nice opportunity to chat and get to know each other.

October

- Back to School Night: To provide an evening of presentations by the entire staff to allow parents to obtain some insight re: what a day at MorningStar is like and how we implement our curriculum in the classroom. We review developmentally appropriate State Standards for Learning. Childcare is available. A nice opportunity to chat and get to know each other.
- Halloween Party: To involve parents in the coordination and support the facilitation of this fun celebration with our kiddos. To develop deeper relationships with parent volunteers and children.

November

- Parent Teacher Conferences: To share information re: each child's strengths and to gather information from parents re: their goals for their children. To develop a deeper connection with parents.
- A Community Service Project: To invite families to contribute support to some local target group in need.

December

- Winter Solstice Party & Art Auction: To offer an exciting family event where parents bid on children's artwork to raise money for the school and enjoy student performances. To develop deeper relationships with all members of the school community. A nice opportunity to chat and get to know each other.

