

August 1, 2020

Re: September Enrollment

Well, here we are in August and still trying to navigate COVID-19. Who would have thought?

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the continued support you have shown Growing Tree, especially in the last 5 months. I know it has been a difficult time, yet you have been there for us all along the way. Thank you!

Thank you for completing the Enrollment Survey. Your responses were helpful in guiding us forward.

September planning:

Annual tuition increases will occur this year in October rather than September. We will not have accurate enrollment numbers until August 14th, and felt it was important to honor the 30-day notice of change.

Effective September 1st Growing Tree has made the decision to suspend all “monthly holding fees” until we are at full enrollment capacity.

As you may be aware, as of March 16, 2020 and due to the Governor’s order, we have been operating at a lower capacity than normal as the current rules only allow 10 children per “stable group”. As such, we have a number of children unable to return to the Center, as our Bud, Branch, and Blossom rooms normally operate with 20 children.

On August 14th, we anticipate guidance from the Early Learning Division (ELD) regarding future allowed enrollment numbers. The hope is that we receive more slots to meet everyone’s childcare needs in September, but we have no idea if that is a realistic expectation. The following procedure is a worst-case scenario (meaning no changes from our current Emergency License of 10 children per classroom).

To preface: Seedlings, Big Seeds, and Sprout rooms will not be affected by this information as they have fewer than 10 children enrolled and therefore will be allowed to operate at capacity.

In the event, that we do not receive the 10 additional slots in the Bud Branch and Blossom rooms on August 14th, we will proceed in the following manner:

- Families currently attending Growing Tree will retain their slot in the classroom.
- Families not currently attending but seeking care in September will be added to a “**priority waitlist**” comprised of currently registered GT families only.
- Siblings of children currently attending will have priority to keep families together per GT policy.
- As slots become available according to (ELD) guidelines, names from the priority waitlist will be drawn from a lottery.
- If your name is drawn you may either accept/decline the slot for the upcoming month. If you decline, your name will go back in the lottery for future open enrollment.
- Once the ELD increases enrollment back to full enrollment capacity (20 children per room), if you still choose to not attend, your child will be added to the front of the community waitlist and you will have first right of refusal for any slots that become available.
- To summarize if you are not attending GT now and your child is slated to be in the Bud, Branch or Blossom room in September, you **do not** have a childcare slot in September and will participate in the lottery as GT receives additional slots.

I know this is a lot to digest and not exactly the best news, for that I apologize. The “Growing Tree Gods” as I call them, are typically good to us so I am counting on them BIG TIME!

-Tammy