



# Monthly Notes

## May 2025

We like the warm weather! And your little butterflies are having so much fun in the sun. Along with the arrival of butterfly wings for wearing outside, we got magic wands and matchbox cars! The cars have been really fun as they fit into the ramps and kids are loving running them down the slide.

Lunchtime today was full of thank yous for our meal—thank you earth, sun, trees and people at the tables! It is so fun to see and hear kids extending and applying our little rituals in caring ways.

## 2025-2026 School Year

When ICSD publishes their calendar for next year, we plan ahead too.

The WHE calendar includes a couple of changes to the ICSD calendar that are highlighted at the bottom our policies page.

This newsletter contains documents for the 2025-2026 year including:

- WHE Calendar
- WHE 2025-26 Tuition & Enrollment Policies

...and a current class list!



Find the lyrics for the  
Golden Garden Spider song  
on page 31

## May Holidays

5/26 Memorial Day

May					
M	T	W	Th	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

## Family Gathering

Who will be our planner this month?

For new families, we like to rotate the parent support months with a family gathering month.

We have been percolating an idea of going on the Teal boat together for July. Family friendly boat excursion? Yes, please!

*Let us know if you have an idea for May or want to help with July!*

# Parenting Styles

The way we parent not only influences our child's sense of self, it influences our relationship with them and builds a foundation for how they relate to others and the world around them. If you have ever said something like, "I'm never going to be like my parents!" you may be reflecting on the way they interacted with you and how it made you feel.

In her article, [What is your parenting styles, and why does it matter?](#)

Lauren Pardee notes that parenting styles "can affect everything from your child's self-esteem to their academic success" and that "the way you interact with your child—and how you discipline them—will influence them for the rest of their life."

Parenting styles are typically referred to as authoritarian (brickwall), authoritative (backbone) or permissive (jellyfish), Lauren Pardee adds neglectful to her list.

An example of how parenting styles comes into play is when we set boundaries. Even though we know boundaries are important, when we consider the research on how our interactions impact our child's sense of self worth, we might find it a little more important find a *backbone*.

We must find our limits: in fact authoritarian (brickwall) parenting makes children feel more valued than permissive parenting—and certainly more valued than when in a family with uninvolved parent(s). Again, the role of attention is so important. Children who receive attention feel loved.

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Joshua Seong.

	JELLYFISH	BACKBONE	BRICKWALL
What are the rules like?	-No recognizable structure, rules, or guidelines	-Clear -Simple	-Rigid -Strict -Unyielding
What types of discipline or punishments are used?	-Bribing -Doing nothing -Pleading -Threatening -Waiting -Yielding	-Asserting messages -Conflict Resolution -Consequences -Family meetings -Negotiation -Requesting	-Bribing -Ordering -Punishing -Rewarding -Threatening -Yelling
What are the effects on the child?	-Becomes self-centered -Develops little self-control -Easily led by peers	-Develops self-discipline -Is able to focus on the needs of the group	-Develops little self-control -Learns to obey out of fear -Often out of control in absence of parents
Does the parent demand a lot from the child?	-No. They are lenient and do not require mature behavior.	-Yes. They require their children to be responsible and self-regulated.	-Yes. They require and expect obedience.
Is the parent responsive to the child?	-Yes. They show parental warmth and interest in their children.	-Yes. They show parental warmth and interest in their children.	-No. They are not attuned to their children's special needs and interests.
What is the role of the parent?	-Bystander	-Leader, guide	-The "boss"
Food for Thought: What do you think the quality of the child-parent relationship is like?			
	JELLYFISH	BACKBONE	BRICKWALL

Source: Information in this grid comes from *Kids are Worth It*, Barbara Coloroso.



# May Curriculum

## Primary Themes

- More gardening, more planting!
- What Plants Need
- Parts of animals and plants
- Continents, flags and flag making
- "Tap Tap"
- Geoboard
- Geometric manipulative
- Introducing games

## Activities

- Beading, sewing
- Butterfly painting
- Wings to wear!
- Care of environment: pouring, sweeping
- Elementary movements
- Sequencing
- Grace and courtesy
- Counting/number games

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## Books

- The Friend Ship (Kat Yeh)
- Bear's New Friend (Karma Wilson)
- The Boy Who Invented the Popsicle
- T is for Tugboat
- You are a Story (Bob Raczka)
- Firefighter's Handbook
- Curious George +++++

## Songs

- Robin Red Breast
- Mockingbird Hill
- The Earth is Good to Me
- Bean Song
- Golden Garden Spider
- Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow
- Grey Squirrel
- I Like the Flowers, I Like the Daffodils...
- Back of a Crocodile



## Golden Garden Spider

She's a golden garden spider  
One day I sat beside her  
She looked at me,  
and this is what she said:  
I'm a golden garden spider  
A spinner not a fighter  
Come close to me  
and watch me spin my web.



# Tuition & Enrollment Policies 2025-2026



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## Monthly Tuition

(Enrollment limited to full-time 8:30am-4:30pm, M-F) \$1,625

Annual Materials fee \$ 275

Due at time of enrollment, billed annually in September

- Rates averaged over the year, for equal monthly payments, regardless of scheduled holidays
- 30 days' notice required to terminate contracts
- Limited early care (8-8:30am M-F) *by arrangement*  
\$15/day; \$275/month - 5 days/week

The following is required to secure enrollment

- 1) Non-refundable Last month's deposit, applied to last month of care
- 2) Non-refundable annual materials fee

WHE Provides	Families Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurturing, responsive care</li> <li>• Prepared environment</li> <li>• Healthy vegetarian meals/snacks</li> <li>• Parent support</li> <li>• Sunscreen, lotion, insect spray</li> <li>• First aid supplies</li> <li>• Water-based disposable wipes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rest mat or blanket</li> <li>• Indoor shoes</li> <li>• Diapers, diaper cream</li> <li>• Families provide diapering wipes, sunscreen and general lotion if child needs specific different items than we offer.</li> </ul>

WHE follows the ICSD school calendar with the following adaptations:

### ADDITIONAL DAYS WHE IS OPEN

- ♦ ICSD Parent/Teacher Conference days, Superintendent, and Professional Learning Community days
- ♦ 9/23/2025 Rosh Hashanah
- ♦ 10/2/2025 Recess Day
- ♦ 3/20/2026 Eid al-Fitr

### ADDITIONAL DAYS WHE IS CLOSED

- ♦ 12/22 & 12/23/2025 Winter Break
- ♦ 5/22 & 5/25/2026 Memorial Day
- ♦ 7/3/2026 Independence Day
- ♦ 8/3-8/7/2026 – Summer break

Additional enrollment policies including payment deadlines, late fees, absences for personal illness and other reasons are included in enrollment contract.  
Effective 09.01.2025-08.31.2026. Rev. 4.29.2025







Labor Day Recess 8/29 & 9/1

9/22-9/24 Rosh Hashanah OPEN

10/2 Yom Kippur OPEN  
10/6-13 Sukkot OPEN  
10/13 Indigenous People's Day  
10/20 Diwali Festival

11/2 Guy Fawkes Day  
11/11 Veterans Day  
11/26-28 Thanksgiving

12/25-1/2 Hannukkah  
12/25 Christmas  
12/26-1/1 Kwanzaa  
Winter Recess 12/22-1/2

Winter Recess 12/22-1/2

1/19 Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Burns Night (1/25)

2/17 Lunar New Year  
Mid-Winter Recess 2/16-2/20  
2/17-28 Ramadan

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

3/1-19 Ramadan cont.

3/20 Eid al-Fitr OPEN

3/30 & 3/31 Spring Recess

4/1-4/3 Spring Recess

4/1-9 Passover

4/3 Good Friday

4/2 Easter

4/12 Orthodox Easter

5/22 &

5/25 Memorial Day Recess

5/21-23 Shavuot &

5/26-27 Eid al-Adha

6/19 Juneteen Recess

7/3 Holidays

8/3-8/7 Summer Break

(9/7/2026 Labor Day)

unclear when 2026-27 school year begins

PLEASE NOTE: WHE remains open on parent/teacher conference days, superintendent and professional learning community days.

4/29/2025





## Contact Information

### West Hill Educare

Cell Phone: 831.465.4518, texting ok

Please use this number to contact us as soon as you know if your child will be absent, as child absences may affect staffing needs.

[westhilleducare@gmail.com](mailto:westhilleducare@gmail.com)

310 Richard Place, Ithaca, NY 14850

In case of emergency, KC can be reached at 831.331.6929

## Class List

(05/01/2025)

Child's Name	D.O.B.	Parents	Address	Phone	E-mail
Ansel Karim-Smith	12/19/2021	Sabrina Karim & Josh Smith	213 Wood St. Ithaca, NY 14850	970-310-4793 470-585-5818	smk349@cornell.edu jes546@cornell.edu
Austin Gaige	12/7/2021	Maria & Brandon Gaige	3726 County Rte 6 (Macintyre Road) Alpine, NY 14805	917-331-2240 607-483-9815	mvf629@gmail.com
Cas Carvallo-Ray	02/02/2022	Sefora Ray & JP Carvallo	209 Rachel Carson Way Ithaca, NY 14850	831- 510-467-2954	seforaray@gmail.com jpcarbod@gmail.com
Kata Peisahovitch	02/05/2022	Herianna Valenzuela & Jason Peisahovitch	203 Madison St. Ithaca, NY 14850	520-440-0043	heriannavalenzuela@gmail.com
Norie Balog-Way	09/12/2021	Simone & Dominic Balog-Way	227 S. Albany St. Ithaca, NY 14850	303-579-3550 202-855-4202	s.balogway@gmail.com
Shiloh Evans	07/10/2022	Caitlin Eger & Tom Evans	Ithaca, NY 14850	303-550-1745	cait-eger@gmail.com
Sybil Lynch	06/16/2021	Rachael & Jimmy Lynch	37 Whig St. Trumansburg, NY 14886	607-339-8837 845-270-1175	Rkoppel5@gmail.com James.Lynch.23@gmail.com
Veda Greig Ramanujan	12/18/2021	Krishna Ramanujan	138 Belle School Rd. Brooktondale, NY 14817	607-339-9229	krishnaramanujan@gmail.com
Zeffie McCasey	01/15/2022	Lauretta Dolch & Indi McCasey	500 Elm St. Ithaca, NY 14850	607-342-1213 510-779-4237	ljd62@cornell.edu indiflyer@gmail.com