For **Infant/Toddler Students**, it is OK:
- If your child is not independent at times.
- If your child needs to be carried sometimes.
- If your child complains a bit about doing what she has been asked to do; stand your ground!
- To be the parent, not a friend. “You have to love your child enough to let them hate you.” -Carol Burnett
- If your child is crying or whining when he comes into class; just let him go and he will be fine. We will call if he does not settle down.
- If your child makes mistakes. It allows her to learn on her own.
- If your child's clothing is not perfectly matched or hair perfectly groomed. It shows that she has been given the opportunity to make her choice independently.
- If your child spills when pouring, drops when carrying, or does not clean up "perfectly".
- If your child misspells words and writes letters backwards.
- If your child forgets his backpack, lunch, folder, etc. on occasion. The natural consequences that occur may keep it from happening in the future.
- If your child temporarily misplaces an item.
- If you let your child try to solve her conflicts on her own before intervening.
- If your child is brought to school in their pajamas if you had a particularly difficult morning.
- If your child is not eager to do academic work when he gets home.
- If your child is assertive about her needs or feelings—this shows valuable self-awareness.
- If your child thrives under repetition; he relishes the ability to master a skill and use it.

For **Early Childhood Students**, it is OK:
- If your child complains about doing what she has been asked to do; stand your ground!
- If your child is crying or whining when he comes into class; just let him go and he will be fine. We will call if he does not settle down.
- If your child’s clothing is not perfectly matched or hair perfectly groomed. It shows that she has been given the opportunity to make her choice independently.
- If your child makes mistakes. It allows him to learn on his own.
- If your child spills when pouring, drops when carrying, or does not clean up "perfectly".
- If your child misspells words and writes letters backwards.
- If your child forgets his backpack, lunch, folder, etc. on occasion. The natural consequences that occur may keep it from happening in the future.
- If your child temporarily misplaces an item.
- If you let your child try to solve her conflicts on her own before intervening.
- If your child is brought to school in their pajamas if you had a particularly difficult morning.
- If your child is not eager to do academic work when he gets home.
- If your child is assertive about her needs or feelings—this shows valuable self-awareness.
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- If your child is assertive about her needs or feelings—this shows valuable self-awareness.
- If your child thrives under repetition; he relishes the ability to master a skill and use it.

For **Elementary Students**, it is OK:
- For your child to learn from mistakes.
- To eat whatever the teacher can find at school for lunch if your child forgets his.
- If the laundry is not folded perfectly or in the right place in the closet or drawer.
- If your child feels some frustration at having to figure something out on her own.
- To miss a favorite television show or screen activity to have time to wind down and read before bed.
- To go to bed early to keep from being too tired to get up on time in the morning.
- To make two trips to move all of his belongings from one place to the next.
- To spill. She can clean it up.
- For your child to feel disappointed because he was told “no”.
- For your child to search for or do without something that has been lost.
- For your child to complain about doing homework and using the dictionary.
- If her projects or book reports look like she did it herself.
- To occasionally forget his homework.
- For your child to complain about taking care of her belongings.
- For your child to complain about having to dress appropriately for the weather.
- To not be able to explain all of the work done at school and why.
- If your child does not share details of his day with you.
- To have a limit on screen time during the school week and on weekends.
- For your child to come to school in pajamas with a comb, toothbrush, and clothes in a bag.
- To be upset with a friend, and work to resolve the issue.
- For you to have different expectations of your child than other parents have of theirs.
### Cumulative Benchmarks of Independence

**In an organized environment,**

- **Toddlers** can:
  - Dress themselves.
  - Engage self for brief periods of time.
  - Walk to class without being carried.
  - Carry their belongings (bag or tote, lunch, and coat) to class and place them in the cubby without parental help.
  - Open and close their lunchboxes & containers.
  - Feed themselves from an open cup.
  - Eat while sitting in a chair (no high-chairs).
  - Go to the bathroom independently as long as their clothes are not a hindrance.
  - Entertain themselves without the TV, computer, tablet or smartphone.
  - Help brush their teeth and hair.
  - Put on socks and shoes by themselves.
  - Eat with utensils.

- **Early Childhood Students can also:**
  - Help set the table.
  - Sort silverware after it has been washed.
  - Clean up spills; sweep the floor.
  - Put away their toys.
  - Straighten their room.
  - Sort clean socks, fold towels, etc.
  - Have responsibilities in keeping the environment clean and tidy.
  - Help prepare veggies/huit for meals at home.
  - Help plant flowers, weed beds, water plants, etc.
  - Feed and care for pets.

- **Lower Elementary students can also:**
  - Make their bed everyday.
  - Fold laundry and put it away.
  - Feed and care for pets.
  - Put away toys, games, and books.
  - Set the table for meals.
  - Clear the table after meals.
  - Help do the dishes.
  - Sort their trash, recycling, compost.
  - Sweep and vacuum floors.
  - Read a book to parents, siblings, and by themselves.
  - Complete a task or work cycle from beginning to end.

- **Upper Elementary students can also:**
  - Dress and prepare their own breakfast each morning.
  - Plan and pack their own lunch and snack.
  - Be responsible for remembering water bottle, homework, take-home folder, and other papers that are due.
  - Wear weather appropriate clothing, including remember to wear/bring a jacket for outdoor recess.
  - Pick up after themselves.
  - Allot time, and manage until completion, literature reading, and other ongoing homework projects (Ex. Science Fair, Island).
  - Accurately complete most of their work plan each week.
  - Set an alarm and wake with enough time to prepare for the day.
  - Get in and out of their car seat or booster seat by themselves.

### At home and school, **Toddlers can:**

- Clean up and put their toys/work away in an orderly environment where items have been placed.
- Help prepare meals i.e. wash vegetables.
- Water plants.
- Help with gardening
- Clean up spills
- Help wash the car.
- Help sweep the floor.
- Put some laundry away.
- Be respectful of other living creatures.
- Help with chores at home such as putting away dirty dishes, help make a meal.

### At home and school, **Early Childhood students can also:**

- Show respect for others.
- Wait patiently without interrupting conversations.
- Use appropriate table manners.
- Understand not to take or use things that belong to others without asking.
- Begin to solve problems with little or no interference from adults.
- Feel empathy for others.
- Let others finish a sentence before interrupting to ask a question.
- Follow social expectations of eating/drinking in designated areas & times.
- Learn to deal with frustrations without having a parent anticipate & solve problems for them.
- Use words or signs rather than whine.
- Resolve conflict w/o physical action.

### At home and school, **Lower Elementary students can also:**

- Say please and thank you.
- Help others with work.
- Solve problems with friends and adults.
- Practice conflict resolution when necessary.
- Apologize and make amends.
- Write thank you notes for gifts received.
- Exhibit grace and courtesy.
- Use conflict resolution skills.
- Help others problem solve.
- Respect authority.
- Understand and follow school norms for serious, quiet times and times for conversation.

### At home and school, **Upper Elementary students can also:**

- Plan and prepare a meal for others.
- Dress in a manner that expresses identity.
- Begin earning money and managing personal finances.
- Begin to supervise others in completion of small jobs and task teams.
- Track school assignments in their planner
- Complete most work independently
- Manage personal transportation independently (e.g. bus, bicycle).

### At home and in the community, **High School students can also:**

- Manage their food choices utilizing knowledge of food nutrition.
- Make appropriate decisions about personal hygiene.
- Develop entrepreneurship.
- Demonstrate independent leadership of student clubs and activities.
- Mentor peers.
- Get a driver’s license.