

Dear Afternoon Bear Tracks Families,

It is difficult to believe that we are now in the month of October and in full swing of the Fall Season! Bear Trackers are catching on to classroom routines and fellow Bear Trackers' names. One of the loveliest components of Bear Tracks is the smaller group, which provides more one on one time with teacher and student. The children have greater opportunities for extended play themes with friends and greater social-emotional recognition in self and others. There are less students, more space and time together.

As you can imagine, the topic of Autumn has seaped into our story time: for example, "Fletcher and the Falling Leaves" by Julie Rawlin. Fall has influenced our Art Area with Pumpkin and Jack-O-Lantern collage people. Scents of Autumn have even found their way into our fine-motor/manipulative play with pumpkin and cinnamon scented, orange play-doh, where we knead, roll, stamp and cut pumpkin and leaf shapes. Our outdoor play has added leaf collecting, swinging and singing, and games of chase, as well as the ever-important discussion of possible Halloween costumes. Frankly, this topic goes from the day before Halloween and continues to the day after for "next year's" costume ideas!

Below is a link to a relevant parent article from the NAEYC website. The article talks about the importance of providing opportunities for your preschooler to recognize and gain self-control and patience (which we all need a tune-up on from time to time:): <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/help-your-preschooler-gain-self-control>. Enjoy your Fall season, and cooler outdoor time with your preschooler! I hope to cross paths with you during the Halloween Parade and/or Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please feel free to reach out to me with any thoughts and questions.

Take Care,
~Ms. Suzy