
Birthday Policy

Arcadia Playschool staff made a collaborative decision to change the school's birthday policy. It is after spending a day of learning at a STEM-based school in Pasadena on May 27, 2022, during our Professional Development Day, we have evaluated some of our current preschool practices and gained a better understanding that our existing guidelines for birthday parties no longer serve the quality of experiences the children get at school.

It is our goal to stay sensitive to various financial, work, and health situations of the families at school, and for that reason, we'd like to emphasize that we do not request parents to celebrate the children's birthdays at school. This practice is not necessary. However, those parents who wish to share their joy of celebrating their child's birthday with the school friends, we ask you to please follow the guidelines of our improved Birthday Policy.

BOOK LIST. Each classroom will publish their Book List for books, please check back with our website [ArcadiaPlayschool.com](https://www.ArcadiaPlayschool.com). We ask that you choose only one book from the list to purchase for the classroom. The biggest part of the birthday celebration is having you, parents, in it. The most valuable gift your child can receive from you on their birthday is your attention. We can't stress this matter enough, and this is why you must be present, in order to celebrate your child's birthday at school. In fact, you will be the star of the show!

CELEBRATION TIME. Birthday celebrations will be scheduled in the afternoon at 3:30pm. Please schedule the specific day with your classroom teachers.

BIRTHDAY TREAT. As per our improved Birthday Policy, cakes and cupcakes will no longer be served to the children. In alignment with our efforts of instilling healthy eating habits, we have decided that a good alternative, which will help us transition to our new reshaped practice, would be to have muffins. Please keep in mind that we do not request that you provide muffins, as they are optional.

On the day of your child's celebration, we ask that you bring your book and the muffins (if any) to the classroom, where you will present it to your child's class during a group celebration. After you have settled in the classroom, we ask that you grant us the gift of reading the book to all the children at the celebration to honor such a great occasion.

We have to say no to decorations and the goodie bags at this time. Although these items add fun details, they tend to take away our focus from the important aspect, which is the quality of interactions.

We believe this new practice will make your child feel special, receiving more thoughtful attention from the peers, teachers, and most importantly from you.
