

Birthday Celebration Guidelines

We are all interested in each child's birthday being a particularly special day for him/her so we've made every effort to think through all the details that make such celebrations significant and to organize them in a way that also supports the philosophy and smooth running of the program.

Since there may be up to 30 children enrolled in any one room, birthdays are celebrated regularly. For this reason, coordination of appropriate food items is important. Additionally, we are interested in focusing on non-food items as being associated with the specialness of celebrations. Birthday celebrations here are much more low key than at home. We want the child to feel recognized and celebrated, yet not overwhelm the child or other children.

In an effort to acknowledge the celebratory nature and importance of each child's birthday, we have developed the following guidelines.

Staff will provide for each child:

1. A snack, which the child may participate in selecting, consistent with CEC food policies. The child may have an opportunity to participate in the making and serving of the snack if he/she wishes. The parents may join in by contributing ingredients for the snack. We have built a list of "birthday snack ideas" which is available by asking a Lead Teacher.
2. Specific activities to highlight the day. We'll sing, let your child play a special role during group time and the group will create a birthday book for your child to take home or hang a birthday banner in your child's room.

Parents are welcome to provide:

1. A favorite book that you and your child have selected together to donate to the room with your child's name and birth date inside.
2. A special snack. *Due to the unique needs and/or allergies of our children, any parent wishing to provide snack must have their ideas cleared with a Lead Teacher before bringing snack. We do have specific food guidelines and restrictions which must be followed.*

We appreciate your cooperation and partnership in this effort. If you have questions or comments, please contact a Program Director. Thank you.

