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# The Laurel Hill Philosophy

— New Parent Orientation 2019 —

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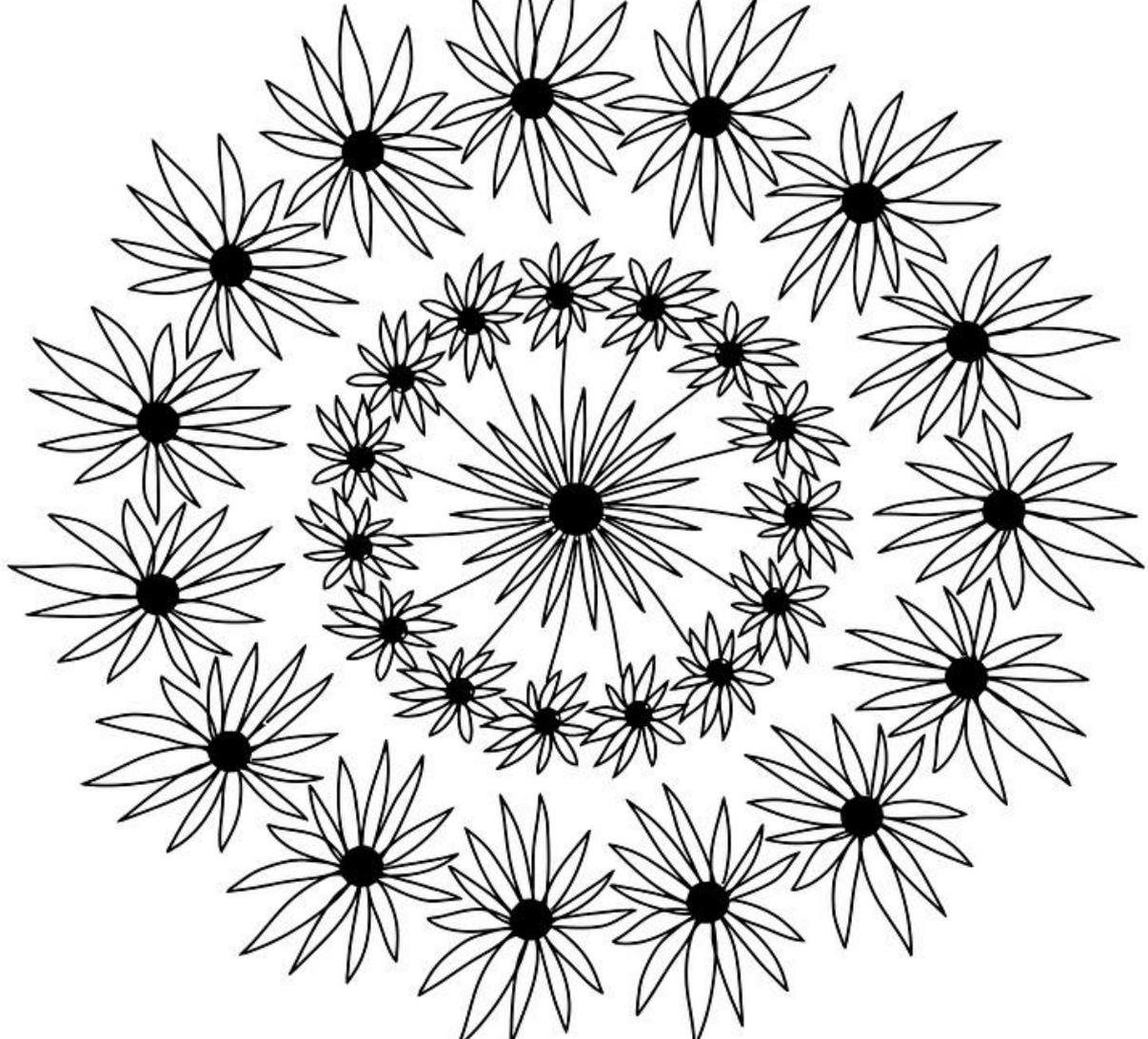
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**BREATHE  
IN...**

**...BREATHE  
OUT**

**You belong  
here.**



Laurel Hill Nursery School is a parent cooperative nursery school. Member families and staff work together to provide young children with an affordable, safe, caring environment in which they can learn through play and connection. Members gain support for their parenting by working side by side with early childhood educators while having the opportunity to build a strong community for their family.



**New parents. There are so many questions and we want you to find the answers. Here are some great places to look:**





Parent Manual

Contract

Bylaws

**Still need answers?  
Check your emails, ask a  
board member, or  
veteran parent.**

# STILL concerned?

That's natural. You are joining a new community, sharing your family with new people. Some people will feel their armour hardening and the uncertainty that comes with vulnerability. This situation calls for a little Brene Brown!



[Vulnerability Clip](#)

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**Tip #1:**  
**Open yourself to learning by doing. Show up with an open  
mind, open heart and remember...**  
**...it's all about the kids.**

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# Community Expectations

It's all about the kids.

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**Tip #2**  
**Instead of looking for Kindergarten**  
**Readiness - build conditions for growing**  
**wiser.**

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Belonging

Risk

Passion

Power

Presence

Productivity

Support

Solitude

Humor

Gratification Deference

Mentors/Models

Re-seeding

PLAY

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**Tip #3**  
**Learn to speak the language of Laurel Hill.**

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# Language of Laurier Hill

OUR FLEXIBILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW A CHILD'S LEAD WILL ALLOW REMARKABLE THINGS TO HAPPEN, IF WE LET THEM," BEV BOS

## Setting Limits

- Make eye contact with the child
- Get down low
- Listen. Limit. Listen.
- "I am not going to let you..."
- Listen while the child off loads any tension. Hold the limit.

Provide Feedback - if children are stuck:

- "I noticed that..."
- "What's your idea?"
- "Tell me about the game you are playing."

*"Listening to children with love relieves their hearts, and most often clears their behavior, as well."*

*Patty Wipfler*

## Turn Taking (aka Sharing)

- "Can I have it next, when you are finished?"
- Make a list
- Redirect
- Find another object that is the same.
- Listen to the disappointment.

## I'm Sorry!

- ❖ We don't make children say "I'm sorry."
- ❖ Have the children check in with each other "Are you Ok?"
- ❖ Ice can also be used for self soothing.
- ❖ Offer a bandaid or to write a note home.

"It's the silence of the adults that give the children a voice."

Michael Leeman

## Teasing:

- ❑ Observe. What is behind the behavior? Sometimes our preconceptions get in the way.
- ❑ Check in with the child who is being teased (ie: Do you like it when they call you a baby?)
- ❑ Help the child to speak up: "Let's tell them!"

**Nobody has ever learned a new language on the first day of school. On the other hand, no one has learned a language without practice.**

## What to expect on your workday.

We start the day by shifting gears with a morning workday meeting. We'll bring your learning mind forward and give your parenting mind a break. Your role is to put our philosophy into action - support children's play.

Then you'll follow your work card and support the children's play.

You'll get a break to move your car, grab a bite to eat or chat with another parent.

You'll end the day with a co-op task and a workday meeting.

# The truth!

On your workday there will be:

- Tantrums
- Hitting
- Exclusion
- Pee, poop and boogers

Your child might be:

- Scared
- Sad
- Mad
- Jealous
- Petty

We will:

- Embrace the whole child
- Give the children space to work through discomfort
- Set limits if necessary (even for adults)

We will absolutely:

- Make mistakes
- Step on each other's toes

# More Truth!

- You chose this co-op - not a traditional preschool
- You belong here
- We all learn differently
- What you get out of the experience is up to you.

# Welcome! Now let's get to work.

We are so glad you are here.

We'll do our best to respect your requests and boundaries and in return ask you to take this philosophy to heart.

Show up on time with a supportive mindset and most of all, remember:

It's all about the kids.