

## A brief history...

Alameda Island Kids was originally established, in 1981, at the request of the school district, to provide Licensed child care to Kindergarten thru 2nd grade. Alameda Park and Rec. Dept. took the older children. As the years passed, both organizations served children outside of the initial age group, but ARPD never took Kindergarten until full day K schedule kicked in during the 16-17 school year. AUSD is on a half day K schedule for the 20-21 school year, and ARPD will not be picking up K's. For this reason, AIK has maintained a Kindergarten Enrollment first policy since no other organizations remained consistently committed to making sure Kindergartener care was covered. We are the only onsite program which is licensed in the entire AUSD school district.

# Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions

## What is Licensed Childcare?

Our childcare is licensed with the State of California. We are required to adhere to their rules and oversight of our program, facility and staffing requirements. We are required to keep to ratios of 14 students to 1 staff person. Staff is required to have educational credits for their designated rolls. Our AIK space, which we rent from AUSD, has to adhere to certain requirements for the program to be allowed to run. While this licensing gives parents a governmental agency that provides oversight to our program, it also limits the flexibility we have in program expansion and enrollment.

## Your program is full and I'm on a waiting list, why can't you just add more staff?

Staffing education requirements and ratios determine the amount of children we can take. One of the hardest positions to fill is the roll of the Teacher. It's a position that is allowed to work with a group of kids, independently, or to supervise a Teacher Assistant. Teachers are highly sought after in this area and very difficult to find. We are constantly competing with 2 school districts (OUSD & AUSD) and other programs to hire quality staff.

Space also determines how many children we can take. Licensing does an evaluation of the space and sets the number of how many children can be in a space. Since we are also "on-site childcare" we rent space from AUSD. They determine where we go and what space is available to us. Sometimes we are competing with enrichment classes, book fair, music classes or PTA meetings for MPR space. Even moving into an existing classroom space is difficult as teachers are in their classes afterschool or the rooms are not configured for licensed childcare.

## You took my Kindergartener and now my older child is on the waitlist, what do I do now?

Frequently, plans change over the summer. We understand that this doesn't reassure parents, but often times, parents change care to 3 day plans or drop entirely. Changes and drops over the summer can allow for waitlisted children to enroll. Unfortunately, as this is based on individual family plans, we cannot guarantee you will get in off the waitlist.

## Are you attempting to hire more staff and get more space?

Absolutely. As parents care needs change over the summer, so do our staffing needs. We remain committed to take as many children as we can within licensing requirements. We are also in constant negotiations and work closely with AUSD about the space we can have access to.

## Why aren't registration forms online?

The forms that are not 3 part NCR are online. We are required to have 3 part NCR for Licensing purposes. Those 3 part NCR forms must be filled out in person.

## Will siblings ever have priority to enrollment?

We frequently review our policies and always try to create policies that are fair to all. We will continue to review our enrollment policies to ensure they are fair to all of our families.