Frequently Asked Questions about Contracts

1. **What is the rate increase and how are the rates determined?**
   We survey area childcare programs, both accredited programs like ours and non-accredited programs, in order to determine a “market rate”. This year we reached out to 10 programs in the Brunswick/Portland area to inform tuition rates. At this time our rates fall in the “average range” for the average of those programs most like ours. This year rates increased 3% in infant, young toddler, and older toddler; and 5% in preschool.

2. **What is the Contract Information sheet?**
   This sheet allows you the opportunity to indicate your intentions for next year so that we can draw up a contract for you to sign. Until we receive the signed contract we will not act on the information you indicated. Please return this form to the office by March 2 so that we can draw up contracts for distribution on March 17 or there about. We will expect signed contracts to be returned to the office by Tuesday, March 31, 2016.

3. **When do I sign the new contract for the next year?**
   All new 12-month Bowdoin employee contracts are written for August 22, 2016 – August 18, 2017 and will be signed by March 31, 2016. This will ensure a space for your child. Any Bowdoin family who would like a 10-month contract for August 29, 2016 – June 16, 2017 will sign that contract then too. There is no deposit required for returning families.

4. **When does the next year begin for children?**
   Our first day of the new year with children is August 29th. We use the week of August 22 for our professional development. This is factored into your contract so you aren’t “paying extra”.

5. **Who can sign the 10-month contract?**
   Only Bowdoin employees will be offered the option to sign a 10-month contract. This means that they will not choose to attend during the summer months (mid June – mid August 2016). Families who chose this option will pay 25% of their monthly tuition for the room they are in during those two months.

6. **When do Community members sign their contracts?**
   All returning community families will receive a 12-month contract on April 1, 2016 to sign, if there are open spots in their child’s next room. We check with current families about the likelihood of a spot for the next year beginning in January so that parents have time to plan.

7. **May I change my mind about the amount of time I need for my child?**
   You are welcome to make those decisions during the month of March, however as of March 31, 2016 when signed contracts are returned, we will offer open slots to families who are waiting for a slot.

8. **Where can I learn more about the program, the curriculum, and the Center policies?**