IXL Scribbles Newsletter
IXL Birmingham
October 2026

Halloween Celebration & Food Policy Reminders

IXL's Halloween celebration plans are as follows:
We will be having our classroom parties on **Thursday, October 29th** during morning snack. On that same day during the afternoon, we will also have Halloween Trick or Treat stations at pick up between 4-5pm. Children will wear costumes during that time and families are welcome to join. Please send your child's costume to school, labeled with their first and last name, and teachers will dress the children after PM snack. More details regarding this fun Halloween day will be sent via Playground as the date approaches.

Here are some quick reminders about our food policy for Halloween party food donations brought into the center:

- IXL is an allergy aware center. Please do not bring in any food containing or manufactured in the same facility with peanuts or nuts.
- Food labels cannot contain (or have traces of) any form of nut ingredient on it.
- No homemade foods/treats are allowed to be served to the classroom. Pre-packaged, sealed food/treats with a label bought from a store can be served.
- Single ingredient items such as carrots and strawberries are allowed. The teachers will wash these before serving.

Sick Season & Medication Policy

As we approach the change of seasons, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of IXL's health policies. Please review IXL's Health Care Plan, as it is strongly enforced. We make health decisions that are beneficial for all children enrolled in our program. A child who is experiencing illness related symptoms must follow the guidelines for exclusion and return.

To promote everyone's health, it is important that we work together!

- Keep children home when they are sick. We will be strongly enforcing our sick policy and screening children when they arrive at IXL and throughout the day.
- Pick up as quickly as possible when your child becomes ill while at IXL. Children must be picked up within one hour of exclusion or an illness late pick up fee of $50 will be applied to your account.
- IXL hand washing policy: All children must wash hands when arriving for the day.
- Wash your hands and your child's hands frequently.
- Teach children to cough into the crease of their elbow OR tissue vs. into their hands.

Our **Sick Policy** states that we are unable to refund or switch days that your child may be sick. It is very difficult to staff appropriately and is unfair to full-time families who have no day to switch to. In the event that your child is sick, please call the office to let them know or mark them "sick" on the Playground app. Thank you for understanding as we work hard to keep our classrooms healthy!

Our **Medication Policy** states that ALL medication must have a doctor's note in order for IXL to administer. This includes homeopathic and all natural medications. A "Permission to Administer" form must be filled out by a parent for each medication and is kept in the office. Medications must also have the prescription label attached.

I.D. & Door Code Reminder

Keeping your children safe while in our care is our highest priority. There may be times when a teacher or IXL staff member may not know or recognize a parent or authorized pick up person and asks to see identification. Please be patient if this happens, as all IXL staff members are trained to not release children to anyone they have not previously met or identified.

Along with this, one of our main security features is our door code entry system. Please make sure that only parents and guardians are made aware of the door code. In addition, we ask that parents refrain from holding the door to the building open for others who wish to enter. Grandparents, relatives, or other authorized pick up persons will be asked for their photo ID by a director and shown to your child's classroom.

Fall Assessment Period

Lead teachers in our Preschool Smart Start classroom will be assessing children in their classroom beginning in October. This initial assessment period is used as a guide for teachers in lesson planning and to evaluate each child's individual progress in the classroom. Assessments will be completed by mid-November and a copy will be provided to parents for review shortly after. If you have any questions about your child's assessment, please discuss this with your child's lead teacher or a director.

Our GSRP Pre-K classrooms utilize the Teaching Strategies Gold app to assess. The GSRP fall checkpoint period ends in early November and assessments are reviewed and given to parents at Fall GSRP Family Conferences.

✔ Important Reminders:

- As the weather is getting cooler, please remember to have appropriate outdoor gear and extra clothes for your child at IXL.
- IXL Learning Center's hours are from 7am-6pm. Drop off is not permitted before 7am, and a late pick up fee will be applied to your account for any pick ups after 6pm. Any pick up between 6:01-6:10pm will be applied a $50 fee and $5/minute will be added for any pick up after 6:10pm.
- Tuition payments are due in full on or before 10:00am Friday for the following week of attendance.
- IXL provides an AM snack, lunch & a PM snack each day. Milk will be offered for lunch only and water throughout the day/with snacks. Parents are welcome to provide breakfast to eat at IXL.

Upcoming Dates:

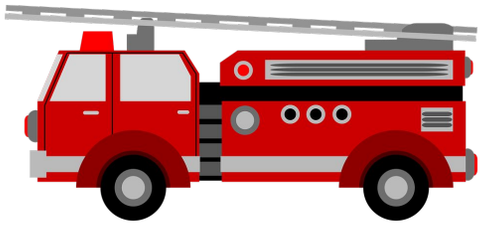
Each Friday in October	**FALL FRIDAYS** Spirit Days
Mon. 10/5 & Tues. 10/6	**SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS**
Sat, 10/10	**IXL BOO BASH** IXL South Lyon 10am-12pm
Mon, 10/19	**PAJAMA DAY**
Fri, 10/30	**HAPPY HALLOWEEN** Black/Orange Day
Thurs, 11/26 & Fri, 11/27	**IXL CLOSED** for the Thanksgiving Holiday
Sat, 12/5	**IXL HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA** IXL Howell 10am-12pm

Staying Connected with Playground

We're continuing to get settled into our new Playground management system! Playground keeps everything you need in one convenient place, including communication, billing and payments, classroom updates, photos, digital paperwork, and more.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we've transitioned to this new system. We appreciate your support as we continue learning and making Playground a part of our daily routine! If you have any questions about Playground, please reach out to your director.

National Fire Safety Week



The week of October 4th-10th is National Fire Prevention Week. Each year, IXL recognizes this national week with a visit from our local fire Department. During their visit, our classrooms will learn all about fire safety!

The Birmingham Fire Department will be making their visit to IXL on Wednesday, October 7th at 10am with their firetruck and talk with us about fire safety!

IXL Family Cider Mill Event

Please join us on Sunday, October 11th at Franklin Cider Mill from 10am-12pm for our IXL Family Cider Mill event. Come enjoy some fresh cider, warm donuts and lots of fall fun with us!

School Picture Days October 5th & 6th

As the day approaches, be on the lookout for a Photo Preference form sent via Playground to complete and indicate your photo preferences for your child(ren). **PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM PER CHILD**. Any child who does not have a picture form filled out, will not be photographed.

Classroom Corner:

- Reminders for All Classrooms -
  - Please have weather aware gear at IXL (with cold mornings, warm afternoons)
  - Please have seasonally appropriate clothing in cubbies.
  - Please LABEL anything brought into IXL.
  - Children must be with an adult, never left alone, at all times while in our building. Please do not allow kids to open the doors. Thank you!