

Adventures In Learning Preschool, LLC



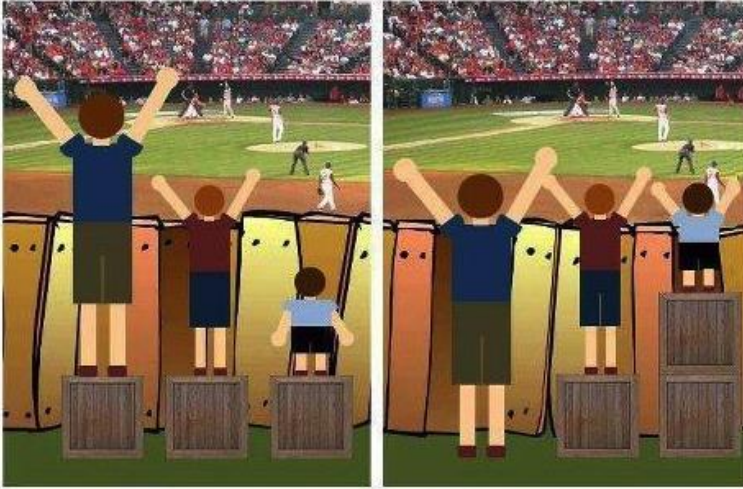
Parent Information

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

~Benjamin Franklin

Our Philosophy

- Children learn best in a setting where they feel safe and have trusting relationships with others.
- The classroom fosters a sense of community and values each individual child.
- Fair does not mean equal:



- Children learn through exploration, with encouragement from supportive adults and through peer interactions.
- Children benefit from learning how to be independent; to be responsible for their belongings, to do things on their own, to solve their problems and how to be critical thinkers.

Parent Involvement

- Parents are the child's first teacher! You know what your child's life experiences have been because you have been there since the beginning; you know what skills they possess because you have taught them; you know what their strengths are because you have witnessed them. As teachers we rely on you to share with us as much as possible about your child so that we can know them well.
- We need each other in order to be effective! When we collaborate on specific skills together we are much more effective. Consistency is so important!
- Communication! Communication! Communication!
 - Website
 - Email
 - Newsletters
 - Facebook

Clothing

- We expect children to be dressed appropriately for the weather, if a child is not, and we are not able to provide them with a way to be prepared (i.e. warmer coat, mittens, hat) expect that you will get a phone call or text to bring back the items that are necessary for your child to be outdoors.
- We expect children to wear clothing that is appropriate for outside messy play, this year we are requesting that children do not wear skirts or dresses unless they have shorts or pants under them. Additionally, we are requiring elastic waisted rain pants, please avoid pants with suspenders or rain suits, as they are much harder to get off when children need to go to the bathroom. Their pants will stay at school and be washed weekly, or as needed.
- Children must wear Velcro or slip on tennis shoes to school. They must be able to put their shoes on and take them off themselves. No tie shoes or buckles please.
- Coats must be waterproof and have hoods.
- Waterproof mittens. Gloves are hard for some children to put on themselves, and cloth gets wet quickly and children get cold. Their gloves will stay at school and be washed weekly, or as needed.

- Hats that cover their ears. Their hats will stay at school and be washed weekly, or as needed.
- PLEASE PUT NAMES ON EVERYTHING!! Including coats and backpacks.

Sunscreen

- Since we will be outside so much more this year, your child will need to have sunscreen to be left here at preschool. We also ask that you apply sunscreen to your child before coming to preschool, and we will reapply it as necessary.

Schedule

Note: class times are shortened by 15 minutes to allow time for all the new operating procedures and cleaning standards we have to meet.

9:00 - 9:10 / 12:45 - 12:55	Arrival – Handwashing and Question of the day
9:10 - 9:20 / 12:55 - 1:05	Morning greeting and Star of the day
9:20 - 9:50 / 1:05 - 1:35	Recess – Uninterrupted Free Play
9:50 - 10:05 / 1:35 - 1:50	Circle Time
10:05 - 10:10 / 1:50 - 1:55	Hand washing
10:10 - 10:25 / 1:55 - 2:10	Snack
10:25 - 11:10 / 2:10 - 2:55	Free choice/Art/Table Activities
11:10 - 11:20 / 2:55 - 3:05	Clean-up time
11:20 - 11:25 / 3:05 - 3:10	Hand washing
11:25 - 11:40 / 3:10 - 3:25	Story Time, Zoo Phonics & Goodbye Song
11:40 - 11:45 / 3:25 - 3:30	Parent Pick up
11:25 - 11:40 / 3:10 - 3:25	Story Time, Zoo Phonics & Goodbye Song
11:40 - 11:45 / 3:25 - 3:30	Parent Pick up

This schedule is not set in stone, if we feel like things need to be moved around we will do so.

School Calendar

- We follow the North Thurston School District calendar.
- Snow days are usually made up if/when the district makes up days.
- If there is a power failure here at school and I have to close, those days are not made up.

Star of the Day

- Each day one child has the opportunity to be Star of the Day.
- The child who will be Star of the Day will bring a favorite book to “read” to the class. They will also have special privileges that day like picking the song at circle time, and being the teacher’s special helper for the day.
- If your child is sick, or otherwise absent, on their day, they will make it up upon their return.

Snacks

- In years past I have provided snack for the children and it was done family style. The rules about food service, due to COVID-19, have greatly complicated this process, teachers basically have to be hands-off for snack (or wash hands/get new gloves between each child’s food we touch). Because of this we will now be requiring families to provide snack for their children this year.
- The following are the guidelines for snack:
 - 1 or more fresh fruit or vegetable prepared and ready to eat (examples – sliced apples, banana (if they can peel it themselves), carrots, sliced bell peppers, strawberries, etc. no grapes unless they are cut in half.
 - Crackers – Goldfish, Ritz, Graham Crackers, pretzels, etc.
 - Sliced or individually packaged cheese.
 - Please do not send your child with fruit snacks, candy, cookies, or any other sweets.
- Your child’s snack must be in a baggie or container that they can open without assistance.
- We will provide individual water bottles for children each day, so please don’t send one.

- Remember this is a snack, children will only have 15 minutes to eat before we have to clean up and transition to the next activity.

Adventure Days at a park

- The second Thursday or Monday in the month of October, November, March, and May
- Parents drop children off and pick children up at the park (which will be announced several weeks prior to the date). Morning class drops off at 9:30 and picks up at 12:00. Afternoon class drops off at 12:30 and picks up at 3:00. We learned over the past two years of doing this that 3 hours is a tad bit long for adventure days so we are reducing the time by 30 minutes.
- Children must be dressed appropriately for the weather, or they will not be able to attend. It's important to dress for worst-case scenario; we can always remove layers if needed.
- Children bring their own snack, water bottles, and change of clothing in their backpack.
- See additional info sheet (on the website)

Field Trips

- We are most likely not going to be able to go on field trips this year but if we can:
 - Parents/guardians transport and attend all fieldtrips.
 - Younger siblings are always welcome.
 - Fieldtrips are in lieu of preschool for the day.
 - If your child doesn't attend preschool on the day the fieldtrip is held they are still invited to attend.

Pre-K Curriculum

- The concepts listed below are taught through multiple modalities; we sing songs, read books, do art projects, work in one-on-one interactions during free choice time, and do small and large group activities, usually in a game type activity.
- The most important aspect of our program is the development of a child's social and emotional skills, and also their ability to manage the classroom rules and routines, these skills are grouped under Social Skills below.
- By the time children go to kindergarten they will be exposed to the following:

Social Skills

- Second Step Empathy curriculum
- Practice problem-solving skills in social situations
- Share classroom materials with others
- Participate in classroom jobs, such as setting up for snack, sweeping after snack, helping peers wash their hands, etc.
- Maintain appropriate behavior during classroom activities and group times, such as: listening during story time, participating in and completing art activities and games played as a group, standing in line, listening to teacher directions, etc.
- Practice using manners: please, thank you, excuse me, table manners
- Communicate his/her needs
- Take care of his/her own basic needs: clean up, put on and fasten clothing, use tissue as needed, etc.
- State personal information: first and last name, age, parent's names, city and state where they live

Math

- Recognizing numerals 1-20
- Counting objects to 20
- One-to-one correspondence of objects
- Sorting by various attributes: color, shape, size
- Patterns: AB, AABB, ABC (pre-k only)
- Sizes: small, medium, large
- Shapes: square, rectangle, circle, triangle, hexagon, octagon, oval
- Concepts of: Same and Different and More, Less, Same

Literacy

- Exposure to alphabet: sounds first then letter names (Zoo Phonics curriculum)
- Recognize, spell, write first name
- Hold a pencil, marker, crayon correctly
- Retell familiar stories
- Draw pictures and dictate sentences about stories and experiences (journals)
- Answer questions about stories
- Repeat simple nursery rhymes and fingerplays
- Concepts of print: left to right direction, holding a book right-side-up
- Build new vocabulary
- Build listening skills
- Strengthen visual discrimination
- Sequencing
- Develop fine motor skills for writing: play dough, scissors, writing utensils, Legos, etc.

Science

- Explore science tools: magnets, magnifying glasses, etc.
- Experience the world through gardening, playground explorations, and field trips
- Observe insect life
- Observe plant growth
- Observe weather and plant life during each season
- Measure and mix ingredients in cooking activities
- Identify basic colors and explore color mixing
- Make observational drawings and dictation
- Explore the world with the five senses
- Investigate animals, the homes they live in, the food they eat

Creative Arts

- Explore a variety of art processes: painting, drawing, collage, etc.
- Use a variety of art materials: crayons, tempera paint, watercolor paint, colored pencils, markers, chalk
- Experiment with mixing paint colors
- Cutting with scissors
- Sing traditional songs and songs that enhance the curriculum
- Participate in movement songs and dances
- Use scarves, rhythm sticks, and shakers to practice rhythms
- Use a variety of children's instruments
- Participate in dramatic play
- Dramatize familiar stories

Assessments

- Assessments are done in all of the following areas of development: Math, Literacy, Social/Emotional, Cognitive, and Physical Development.
- We use an assessment tool called Teaching Strategies Gold.
- Assessments are completed 3 times a school year and shared with families through email and conferences.

Conferences

- Conferences are not required but are strongly encouraged, the more we partner together the more your child will grow!
- We hold conferences twice a year (most likely on Zoom) :
 - Late October
 - Late March
- On the days we hold conferences we do not have preschool classes.
- If you would like to schedule a time to talk with me about your child in between conferences please email or text me and we can set up an appointment.

Take Home Bags

- We are not doing take home bags this year because families are not allowed to come in the classroom, if that changes we will let everyone know.

If your child is sick or otherwise absent

- If your child is sick please text, call or email me before school starts.
- If your child will be absent from school for vacation, doctor/dentist appointments, or other event please let me know as early as possible, via text or email. This makes planning much easier for Carla and I, especially during holidays and assessment times!

Parking and parking lot expectations

- Everyone must back into parking spots instead of pulling nose in; doing so makes it a lot easier to see if there are people are walking past.
- Your child must be with you at all times while in the parking lot.
- Do not allow your child to run through the flowerbeds.

Drop-off procedures

- In years past we have an early drop off time so that we can start class on time, this year with all the changes we have had to make and all the cleaning we have to do we will not be doing that. Morning class arrival is at 9:00 and afternoon class is 12:45
- **PLEASE be on time!!** It is very disruptive to our star of the day time when people are late.
- Sign in process will be online – this includes health screening questions which must be answered every day, if you answer yes to any of the questions your child will not be allowed to attend preschool that day and I will contact you after school to determine when your child can return. As soon as we get this program up and running we will do a video tutorial for you.
- Please wait in your vehicle until a teacher is outside and ready for children to come back.
- Follow the one-way path up to the preschool, only two families should be waiting at a time, and please maintain 6 feet of distance between you and the family in front of you.
- Adults must wear a mask.
- Leave siblings in the vehicle.
- Temperature checks will be done on all children every day, if a child's fever is 100.4 or greater they will not be allowed to attend preschool that day. See COVID Waiver for policy on returning to preschool after fever.

Pick-up procedures

- You must notify me in writing if a person other than approved persons will be picking your child up
- Sign out procedures will also be done online.
- Pick-up time is between 11:40 and 11:45, or 3:25 and 3:30, no later. I will be enforcing a \$1/minute late fee after 11:45/3:30. **There will be no leeway here!**
- Follow the one-way path up to the preschool, only two families should be waiting at a time, and please maintain 6 feet of distance between you and the family in front of you.
- Adults must wear a mask.
- Leave siblings in the vehicle.

Tuition

- I am requesting that all families to pay via Venmo this year, this is a free method of electronic payment. I have been using it for the past 3 years with no security problems. You download the app and search for Caileen Hill. If you are not able to please let me know.
- Tuition is due by the 5th of every month by 3:30.
- If tuition is due on a day your child isn't at preschool you must pay it that day regardless.
- There is a \$10 fee for being late. Tuition and late payments must be paid via Venmo (I will send a request for payment to you for them)
- You can choose the standard monthly payment, which fluctuates depending on extended breaks

from school, or the budget option. Once you decide which option you would like use for payment it cannot be changed.

- If for some reason we have to close school for the year families who pay using the budget plan may have a balance or an amount owing to the preschool, this will be determined at the time in the event this occurs.

Fostering Independence

- One of the big things we work on here in preschool is learning to be independent, and helping the children gain confidence their ability to do things on their own. Ways that you can help with this are:
 - Send your child in clothing and shoes they can take off and put on independently.
 - Have your child carry their own belongings to and from preschool, and allow them to put them in their cubby on their own.
 - Allow your child to walk to and from the preschool. For safety you may hold their hand, but please don't carry them.
 - Help your child learn to put on their coat themselves. We use the Arm-Arm-Flip method.

Birthdays and Other Holidays

- Birthdays are celebrated at preschool as close to the child's birthday as possible. Summer birthday are celebrated during the month of June. Your child will get to bring a treat to share with the class. The treat must be store bought, and individually packaged.
- At Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day we have parties here at the preschool with a sign-up for a special snack.
- Our Spring Program is in May (we are hoping to be able to do it this year).
- Graduation for the 4-year-old classes and a moving up ceremony for the 3-year-olds will be held on the last day of school.

Questions???