

Program Philosophy

1. Children learn best through play. Our program is a play based child centered program. During play children learn many things, such as self regulation, how to think creatively and how to negotiate and problem solve. These skills play an important role in being ready for Kindergarten!
2. We value each family's culture. Communication between parents and teachers is very important.
3. We consider the whole child. This means social, emotional, cognitive and physical development. Development in every area is important for school readiness.
4. Children are valued, considered capable and are respected.
5. We encourage creativity. Children are encouraged to create their own ideas, artwork and imaginative games. We value the process of learning.
6. We provide a safe, fun place to learn, where children know that school is a good place, and where they can develop a positive attitude towards learning.

ADMISSIONS

Forms and Fees

These need to be completed, signed and turned in before your child can attend preschool:

Registration form
Photo release form
Non-refundable \$75 registration fee
Emergency contact form
Immunization record
Handbook agreement
Termination Policy

Tuition

Payment is due by the 1st day of each month.

If payment is not received by the 10th then your child will not be able to attend.

A 30 day advance notice is required if you decide to take your child out of our preschool program.

Make checks payable to: Brickzone

Age of Child

Children must be fully potty trained and three years old to attend preschool. We serve children from age 3 to 5.

Classes

Classes are held on Monday-Friday. We offer a morning session and an afternoon session.

Morning session hours: 9:00am-11:30am 2.5 hrs

Afternoon session hours: 12:30-3:30 3 hrs

Wednesday Session hours: 9:00am-11:30 Am 2.5 hours

Registration

Registrations are taken on a first come, first serve basis. Children already enrolled in the program will have the first opportunity to re-enroll the following school year.

Contact information

Building phone number: 360-835-1200

Little Builders email: brickzonekids@gmail.com

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Hours and drop off/pick up information

We open the doors at the scheduled time. If you arrive early, please wait outside until we open. We are busy inside setting up, so that when we do have your children, we can devote our full attention to them. It is important to us and your child that you are punctual in dropping off and picking up.

There is a \$1 per minute late fee charged for late pick up, so please be on time.

At drop off time children will:

1. Come inside and put their backpack in their cubby.
2. Wash their hands with soap and water.
3. Find their name and put it on the attendance chart.
4. Find an area in the classroom to begin play.

Please make sure you sign your child in each day.

It is very important for us to know how your child is doing and drop off time is a great time to let us know. If your child has missed sleep or didn't want to eat breakfast or is excited about an upcoming event, please let us know. Also, if there are any changes at home, like a new baby, moving or divorce, please inform us so we can help your child have a successful experience at preschool.

At pick up time:

Children will be sitting at circle time. When you come inside, please sign your child out, and then we will give your child a sticker and excuse them.

Please let us know in advance if someone different is picking your child up. You will need to make sure that person is on your emergency contact list. Please inform the person that we will check their ID if we have not met them.

Teacher/Child ratio

Each class will have 12 children with two teachers.

Preschool Calendar

We will follow the Washougal school district calendar for school days.

Unfortunately we will not be able to make up any days missed due to illness or vacations and holidays. We will however make up any missed days if we have to close for any reason, such as bad weather.

It is possible that we may close due to bad weather. We will send an email to all families early in the morning if we have to close the school. If you do not have an email, we will call you. We may still be open even if the Washougal School closes for a snow day. We will keep you informed. We will not do 2 hour late starts.

Clothing

Please send your child to school in clothes that are comfortable and that are appropriate for preschool activities. We sometimes get very messy at preschool! We do lots of painting, gluing, coloring and cooking. Outside we play in the sand, grass, dirt and water. Children love to explore and getting messy is part of it. Please send extra clothes!

At preschool we also do many physical activities as part of our program, so please send children to school in safe shoes that they can run and jump in. Flip flops and high heels can be dangerous!

Discipline

We provide a positive, supportive environment that focuses on prevention and teaching of appropriate behaviors.

Our goal in preschool is to help children to develop a positive self image, successfully problem solve, learn self control skills and learn appropriate social behavior.

We help children learn to negotiate and work through problems. If there is a conflict we will help the child by showing them different ways to solve it. We also give the children a chance to come up with ideas on how to problem solve, and support their ideas.

We commonly use redirection. This means that if we see a child having a difficult time in a certain area, we will redirect him/her to a different area or activity

We also learn about logical and natural consequences.

Natural consequences are the experiences that naturally follow a choice or behavior. For example, going out in cold weather without a coat naturally leads to feeling cold.

Logical consequences are consequences arranged by the adult but logically related to what the child did. For example, a young child who throws a toy may be required to take a break to calm down, and not use the toy until another time.

If a child causes physical harm to another, our first priority is to stop the behavior. We want to teach the child that this is never acceptable. We work on teaching children the skills and language to get what they need without being physical.

If a child has continual behavioral issues, we will contact the parents to come and pick up the child. If this does happen, we will all work together to find future solutions.

There may be some circumstances where it would be in the best interest of the child/family to be in a different environment, and we would withdraw your child from the program.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on the philosophy that children learn through play. Each day there will be an open play time that we call 'centers.' This is where children can decide which area they want to learn in.

During center time children will have the opportunity to use blocks, LEGOS, explore the sensory tub, create art, do puzzles and other math activities, read books, use the dramatic play center and explore the science area. There will also be some teacher directed activities at this time that children can choose.

We do have ongoing themes and projects that are based on what the children are interested in learning. For example, if the children show an interest in animals, we will create many different activities around the theme of animals. We will include the theme in our centers and in our movement, stories and music. A theme may last a week, or much longer depending on the interest of the children!

Here is an outline of our daily schedule:

- Arrival
- Circle time (songs, games, poems)
- Center time (dramatic play, sensory activities, math, art, science, writing, blocks)
- Creative movement
- Snack
- Story time
- Outdoor play
- End of day group time

Because we focus on creativity, imagination, independence and play, your child is able to choose their own activities during center time. This means that they might not have a paper to bring home every day, but be assured, they are still learning. If a child spends their time building in the block area, then he/she has been learning math, measurement, shapes, problem solving and more!

Snacks

We will be serving fruits and vegetables, cheese, yogurt, crackers and other healthy foods. Please be sure to let us know of any allergies your child may have.

All snacks need to be peanut free.

Birthdays and Holidays

Celebrating birthdays is a lot of fun at school! We will have a birthday chart on the wall reminding us of your child's special day. We will have a birthday crown and a sticker for the birthday child. We can provide birthday popsicles if you would like us to, or you can bring in a special treat.

We recognize other holidays also. We would love to hear what types of holidays you and your family celebrate so that we can also celebrate with your child at school. We will inform you of any holiday parties in advance, so that you can join us if you wish.

Field Trips

We will be able to do field trips where we can walk to different places. It is possible to do trips where parents can carpool. We will have a field trip permission form for you to fill out.

Photos

We take pictures of the children, to put in their portfolios, display on the wall and for our blog. Please let us know if you do not want your child's photo taken

HEALTH POLICY

Head Lice

Sometimes head lice like to make an appearance! Head lice can affect anyone. We will be doing frequent head lice checks. If we find head lice on a child, we will contact you to come and take your child home.

Illness

If your child has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea, sore throat, cough, runny nose or a headache please keep him/her home from school until they are 24 hours symptom free. Covid-19 county health department policy requires students to be home for any of those symptoms mentioned above. If your child is at school and appears to be ill, we will call you and have you pick your child up.

If your child has a cold, and is not feeling well, it is a good idea to stay home. Children do not learn well if they are feeling sick, and many more colds are passed around if children come to school while having a bad cold.

If we have to temporarily close due to Covid-19 a credit/refund will be given for that duration.

Medication

We can administer medication if we have written authorization from a licensed health professional. Any over the counter medication should be administered before or after school.

We are looking forward to meeting and getting to know you and your child!

Ms Nikki and Ms Lisa

Please sign and return to preschool

I have read and agree with the Little Builders Preschool Handbook

Name _____

Signature _____