



Junior Kindergarten Program

Our Junior Kindergarten, or four-year-old program, runs for three mornings a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

The main purpose of the program is to build on the experiences of the Pre-Kindergarten, and to prepare children for Kindergarten. Planning of activities focuses on “whole-child” development so that social, emotional, creative, physical and cognitive needs and skills are all considered. Manipulative and creative activities now focus more specifically on pre-reading, pre-writing, and pre-math skills, and children are encouraged to plan and share their activities of the day. As in the Pre-Kindergarten program, we consider individual abilities and talents are central in the nurturing and development of self-esteem, and children are guided at their own pace.

During the year, students will participate in the *Jolly Phonics* program, *Matt and Molly* language program, and *Handwriting Without Tears* program. Children will be attending gym in the community gymnasium twice a week, and will also play in the outdoor playground. Every month, children will have a special event. This may be a field trip or a visitor. Parents will be notified of these events by the monthly calendar and newsletter.

Activities are presented in monthly themes, which help to enhance children’s knowledge of themselves, the community and the world around them.

A Typical Day

Children begin by “signing in”. They identify their picture and learn to recognize their name. Students are also encouraged to write their name on a sign-in sheet.

Manipulative playtime (30 minutes). Children choose from a variety of activities that are set out in the classroom. Examples of manipulative play are puzzles, lego, blocks, trucks, dramatic play or computer games. Math and ABC games are also included.

Circle time (10-15 minutes) is a group gathering time where ideas, plans and observations are shared. Circle activities are designed to stimulate thinking, enrich social skills and to expand attention spans. Calendar activities are an important part of this time. Jolly Phonics letters and sounds, or the number of the day may also be discussed.

Creative activity play (30 minutes). Children make a craft, and can then choose from a variety of activities, sand and water play, and other creative

media. Writing activities are included. Children are encouraged and guided to complete all 'tasks' that are set out.

Movement time (20 minutes) gives children an opportunity to exercise and move through games, simple gymnastics and dance.

or

Music time (20 minutes) Children explore sound, volume, tempo and rhythm; and explore simple instruments. Children learn new songs every month.

Snack (10/15 minutes) Children bring a nutritious and healthy snack from home. We encourage good table manners and healthy eating habits.

Outdoor play (20 minutes). Weather permitting; the children will play outdoors in the playground.

Story time (15 minutes). Stories are read, told, and shared to help children develop an appreciation and enjoyment of literature. Story time also helps to expand attention spans, enhance vocabulary and comprehension skills, and extends knowledge.

Show and Tell. Once a month (indicated on calendar), children bring a toy, book or object from home, which they share with the class.

General Information

This year, on a Monday and Wednesday, Ms. Sandy will teach the class with Ms. Bonnie as her assistant. On Fridays, Ms. Tara Zimmerman will teach the class with Ms. Theresa Harbidge as her assistant. In September, both assistants will be in the classroom until the children are settled and familiar with routines.

Assessment is ongoing, and a parent-teacher interview will take place in February. A yearly report will be given in June. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher during the year with any concerns. Children will receive a portfolio of work at the end of the year.

Each child must bring his or her own snack and drink everyday. PLEASE NO PEANUT PRODUCTS. A water cooler is available for drinking water.

Each child needs running shoes (non-marking sole) that will remain in school. A change of clothes should also be kept in their backpacks. Parents are asked to label clothes, shoes and boots.

A professional photographer will take pictures at the beginning of the year. The date will be announced in September.