Little Tykes Preschool

Parent Information

Our task is to help children communicate with the world using all their potential, strengths and languages, and to overcome any obstacle presented by our culture ~ Loris Malaguzzi

**Our Philosophy**

* Children learn best in a safe environment and have a trusting relationships with others.
* Children learn through play, exploration and using their senses.
* Children benefit from learning how to be independent; to be responsible for their own belongings, to do things on their own, to solve their problems and how to be critical thinkers.
* School encourages a sense of community and values each individual child.

**Parent Involvement**

* Parents are the child’s first teacher. You know them best and know what experiences they have already experienced. You know what skills they possess, what their strengths are and what areas they need more practice with. As teachers we rely on you to share with us as much as possible about your child so that we can know them as well.
* We need each other in order to be effective! When we work together on specific skills we are much more effective. Consistency is key!!!
* Communication is very important to me.
* Phone
* Email
* Newsletters
* Facebook
* Website

**Clothing**

* We expect children to be dressed appropriately for the weather.
* We expect children to wear clothing that is appropriate for messy play.
* We prefer children no to have tie shoes or buckles, if they are not able to manage them on their own. Velcro or boots are best.
* Coats must be waterproof and have hoods.
* Waterproof mittens/gloves.

**Schedule**

 9:00-9:05/12:45-12:50 Arrival

 9:05-9:30/12:50-1:15 Circle time

 9:30-10:10/1:15-1:55 Group time

 10:10-10:30/1:55-2:15 Snack

 10:30-11:00/2:15-2:45 Choice time/individual learning

 11:00-11:30/2:45-3:15 Recess

 11:30-11:40/3:15-3:25 Story time

 11:40-11:45/3:25-3:30 Departure

This schedule is a guideline. If we feel like things need to be moved around we 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 outage here at school and I have to close, those days will not be made up.

**Star of the Week**

* Each week one child from each class will have the opportunity to be Star of the Week.
* The Star of the Week has the opportunity to bring in a special item or book, for one day, to share with the class.
* The Star of the Week has special privileges that week like picking the song at circle time and being the teacher’s special helper.

**Field Trips**

* Parents transport and attend all field trips.
* Younger siblings are always welcome.
* Field trips are in lieu of preschool for the day.
* If your child doesn’t attend preschool on the day the field trip is held they are still invited.
* Our field trips typically coincide with the curriculum theme that month, so it’s important that your child attends the field trips. We talk about what we saw and did on the trip and how it relates to the activity we are doing.

**Pre-K Curriculum**

* The most important aspect of our program is the development of a child’s social and emotional skills and their ability to manage the classroom rules and routines.
* Working through multiple methods; we work on math, science, literacy, music and the arts. Making learning fun, through play, helps them have a positive relationship with school.

**Assessments**

* Assessments are done in all the following areas of development; Math, Literacy, Social/Emotional, Cognitive and Physical Development.
* We use an assessment tool that aligns with The Early Learning Guidelines.
* 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 3 times per school year:
* End of November
* Mid-March
* End of May
* 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 between conferences, please email or sent me and we can set up an appointment.

**Parking and parking lot expectations**

* Your child must be with you at all times while in the parking lot.
* If you want to converse with other parents (which is encouraged) please do so AFTER you drop off your child for preschool or AFTER you secured them in your car.
* Please do not allow your child to run through the flower beds.
* Backing-in to the driveway, instead of pulling nose in, is preferred; our road can be busy and it’s easier to see if there are children walking past.
* Feel free to use the gravel by road and the other gravel driveway.

**Absent/sick Policy**

* If your child will be absent from school please let me know as early as possible, this makes planning much easier.
* Best way to let me know is through text message (360)280-0707 or email before school starts.

**Drop-off procedure**

* The main preschool light being turned on and the curtains opened is the indicator that it’s okay to come in, this will always be at 9:00am/12:45pm on the dot!
* Feel free to join your child under the carport, within the gates, to play until I am open.
* Please be on time!!! It is very disruptive to our classroom when people arrive late.
* Sign in
* Give a short hug and kiss goodbye to your child (they hang their coat and put shoes on shoe rack)

**Pick-up procedure**

* You must notify me in writing or via text if a person other than you will be picking up your child.
* Pick-up time is between 11:40 and 11:45am or 3:25 and 3:30pm, no later. I will be enforcing a $5/minute late fee after 11:45/3:30. **There will be no leeway here**, especially on days we have our afternoon class.
* Sign out

**Tuition**

* Tuition is due by the 5th of every month. There will be a reminder in the sign in book.
* If the 5th falls on a weekend, tuition is due the Friday before.
* If tuition is due on a day your child isn’t at preschool you must pay it by that day regardless.
* There is a $10 fee for being late. $35 fee for bounced check.
* Payment options:
* Cash
* Check or money order

**Fostering Independence**

* One of the big things we work on here in preschool is learning to be independent, and helping children gain confidence with their ability to do things on their own. Ways that you can help in this area are:
* Send your child in clothing and shoes they can take on and off independently.
* Have your child carry their own things to and from preschool and allow them to hang their own coat (unless not tall enough) and put their own shoes away.
* Allow your child to walk to and from the preschool, for safety they need to hold your hand, but please don’t carry them.
* Speak to your child with an adult voice. We don’t allow baby talk unless it’s called for during play time.

**Birthdays and other Holidays**

* Birthdays are celebrated at preschool as close to the child’s birthday as possible. Summer birthdays 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, but please no cupcakes or frosted cookies.
* At Halloween and Valentine’s Day we have parities here at the preschool with a sign-up for treats.
* Our Holiday Party is the second week of December during school hours. Location TBD
* 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??**