

Welcome to SPC Preschool

Preschoolers are amazing people. They are learning so much so fast. We try to offer a variety of activities that provide them with well rounded experiences. Social play and interactions are a primary part of the preschoolers day.

Please drop off your child by 9:00. Late arrival is very disruptive to the teachers schedule and can be even more frustrating for the child. Late drop off does not allow the children ample opportunity to actively play, socialize with other children, build on their cognitive skills, development their independence or self help skills. Repeated absence makes it hard for the child to accept routines at the center and gives them reason to question the importance of school. Earlier drop off allows the children to develop a set pattern of routine, to build a more positive attitude toward the classroom environment, and to benefit from the experiences we provide.

Throughout the year we celebrate many Holidays through weekly themes and parties. Traditionally we focus on Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Holidays (Kwanzaa, Christmas/Santa and Hanukah). While we would like to celebrate other holidays, such as Cinco de Mayo and Chinese New Year, our knowledge is limited. We would appreciate any information about Holidays your family might celebrate.

We are happy to celebrate birthdays with the children. Typically cake, muffins, cupcakes or cookies are served with afternoon snack. Children may bring party bag favors for other classmates.

We are glad to work with you and your child with Potty training. Many pair of underwear and pants/shorts are requested during the initial stages. Children typically learn quickly when they see others using the toilet, when they can easily and independently work with their own clothing (no overalls, snap crotch pants or onsies), and when parents and teachers have high expectations and are consistent in their approach. At SPC, children are sent at specific times to use the toilet. Positive feedback is provided, stickers and other rewards may be offered to motivate the child. If parents are not putting forth effort to potty train, teachers will not attempt to train either. The program between home and school must be consistent. Training can be a long process for some children, patience and persistence is important.

Developmental assessments are done on each child throughout the semester. A checklist of skills will be sent home. We encourage you to share the checklist with your pediatrician. If developmental delays, speech concerns, physical development or social behaviors concerns are suspected, we will set up a meeting with the parents to discuss evaluation either through the pediatrician or Columbia Public Schools (CPS). CPS screenings and evaluations are available free of charge to every child over 3 years of age. Early intervention and therapy are often successful and help better prepare the child for the public school system. Concerns that

are left to “work themselves out” are often a real disadvantage to the child causing more social, behavioral or learning problems down the road. We will strongly encourage you to follow through on any Developmental Assessment Concerns.

Discipline in the preschool room primarily consists of time out and Logical consequences. Children who are disrespectful to property or disregard rules may suffer consequences of their actions. Children who physically hurt another or who repeatedly disrupt group activities will be moved to timeout. Discussion between teacher and child will follow before your child is allowed to return to play or the group. Parents will be notified of repeated behavior problems by the teachers.

The Preschool program focuses on offering new experiences that help the child form more advance cognitive concepts and physical skills in preparation for Kindergarten. Teachers plan theme related activities that follow the children’s interests. Our Daily schedule is shown below:

Open-8:30 Free play
8:30-9:00 Potty and breakfast
9:00-10:00 Indoor activities and Table time
10:00-11:00 Outdoor activities and Free Play
11:15-11:45 Potty and TV/Group
11:45-12:15 Lunch
12:15-2:30 Naps and Potty
2:30-3:00 Snack
3:00-5:50 Indoor and Outdoor Play activity

We look forward to a busy school year with lots of fun activities and learning ahead!