

Welcome to the Rhino Room



Kindergarten readiness is the primary focus for your preschooler at ImagiNation Learning Center. Words take on more importance as your child enters the print rich environment of the preschool classroom. The atmosphere is charged with the energy of the productive preschooler. Writing, letter and sound recognition, name recognition, creative stories; there are so many literacy experiences going on in here, it is hard to name them all! In addition, our teachers also love to collaborate with your preschooler as we encourage self-expression through the process of experimentation, deliberate choices, and natural talent.

As you prepare for your child's first day, these are some of the supplies that you will need:

- Two complete changes of clothing
- A blanket
- A pillow with pillowcase and/or soft stuffed animal if desired
- An extra hat and mittens since we do play outside all year
- Family pictures

(IT IS IMPORTANT TO LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS)

Now that your child is in preschool (and achieving new developmental milestones), here are some things that will change:

- Your child will be encouraged to take charge of his day. In addition to mastering self-help skills, we value your child's input and create activities that promote self-direction and develop leadership skills.
- Children will assist teachers in setting tables for lunch and snack; and also be responsible for other classroom duties. Job charts are created to provide every preschooler the opportunity to share classroom responsibilities.
- Share Day: This is an opportunity for your preschooler to share among his peers. Your child is encouraged to share an object from home or a special story that will enhance the theme of the week. As your preschooler approaches kindergarten, we want to ensure that she is a comfortable and confident speaker.
- Rhino Mail: A brief note from you to your child that is read to your child mid-day. This is a special opportunity to let your child know, that even though you are not here, you are still thinking of her!
- Weekly Journals: Once a week, your child's development is documented in a teacher generated journal entry. Often we will highlight a specific event, conversation or achievement. Parents are encouraged to respond to these entries and provide feedback to teachers.

As your child transitions, consistency between classrooms remains important to us...

- Parents will still provide blankets on Mondays and take them home to be washed on Fridays.
- Our naptime in the preschool room is from 1:00 to 3:00.
- Playground Time! Your child will go to the playground twice a day as weather permits. The children will walk to the playground. Each child holds hands with a partner, and teachers walk in front and behind the entire group.
- Computers: Our preschoolers continue to use computers and simple preschool level educational software. Our focus: to develop eye-hand coordination, learn rules of computer use, and strengthen beginning math and reading skills.
- Learning how to be a friend takes time. Friendships become more intricate as your preschooler begins the process of choosing friends to meet her specific emotional needs. At this age, tighter groups of friends are formed and you may see your preschooler choosing to play with the same children on a regular basis. Rules are very important to the preschooler and when your child notices someone breaking the rules, he will be sure to point it out ("tattling"). Be patient while dealing with your young informer! He is just demonstrating that he is developing stronger social skills.

Frequent and positive communication is essential as we grow our relationship with your family.

- As you drop-off your preschooler each day, be sure to complete the top portion of the daily log. In the preschool classrooms, parents must fill out the top portion of the daily log in order to receive a teacher completed form at the end of the day. If you choose not to fill a form out, you will not get one at the end of the day. However, this information does help us to be aware of any special circumstances that may affect your child's interactions; as well as provide you with specific information on your child's eating, napping, and activities throughout the day.
- We encourage you to call anytime you have a question or concern.
- To capture the moments that we enjoy each day, we have created a **private** Shutterfly account for the preschool classroom. Please provide your email address, and we will enter your family as a member. As a member you will have access to any pictures that we publish of your child.
- Daily emails are distributed to each family that has provided us with email contacts. Your daily email will be a short description of the day's organized activities along with any observations and reactions made by the children in your preschooler's classroom.
- Monthly newsletters are distributed to each family. This tool allows your family to take a closer look at the activities and experiences your child has while with us. In addition, we provide you with information on upcoming special events; and suggestions for activities, songs, and fingerplays to try at home.

Our foremost responsibility is to provide a safe and secure environment for your child. You can help us by:

- Signing in and out on the clipboard each day.
- Notifying us of any attendance changes.
- As you drop off your child, informing us of anything that may affect how we care for your toddler is very important. This includes letting us know about bumps and bruises that have happened at home, changes in your child's temperament, alternate pick-ups or pick up times....

We would like to reiterate our center's open door policy. Please know that you are always welcome, and free to visit our classroom at any time. In fact, there are many times when you can be of great help.