

# Welcome to the Zebra Room



Achieving greater independence is the primary focus for your preschooler at Imagination Learning Center. Our curriculum is carefully crafted to create a balance between independent discovery and teacher-guided instruction. Opportunities abound in a curriculum packed with dramatic play, reading and writing, problem solving, creative projects, and lively discussions.

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:

- No more diapers! ☺ Your child must be fully potty trained in preschool. Although pull-ups may still be used if your child has not achieved naptime dryness, we encourage frequent trips to the potty to help accomplish this goal.
- To assist children with the process of wiping after going potty, teachers will provide verbal coaching. In addition, parents may provide flushable wipes for their own child if needed.
- Your child will be further encouraged in the development of self-help skills.
- Children will assist teachers in setting tables for lunch and snack, and also be responsible for clearing their places at the table and pushing in their chairs.
- Share Day: This is a new opportunity for your preschooler to share something special from home among his peers. This activity allows children to begin to speak in front of an audience, develop self-confidence, and increase their vocabulary.
- 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.
- Zebra 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!
- Computers: Our preschoolers are introduced to 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.
- Child-Directed Activities: As your child gains independence, there is a change from teacher-directed to child-directed activities. Your teachers will still design and implement the activities from the lesson plans, however you will see a shift in "control" as your child freely explores, discovers, and predicts the outcomes of their own actions.

**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.
- As your preschooler begins to solve her own problems in the classroom, and with family members at home, you may hear your preschooler use phrases such as: I don't like it..., Help me..., I am feeling..., Can I have a turn?... We accept and encourage your preschooler's use of these expressions of his needs.
- Learning how to be a friend takes time. Friendships become increasingly important to your preschooler. Because your preschooler recognizes the power in having friendships, they will use these friendships as a tool to get what they want! Quite often with children of this age, we observe interactions where the following phrases are used, "I'm not going to be your friend, You can't come to my birthday party, I am telling..." Please understand that these are fleeting thoughts in the mind of a preschooler, and several minutes later the children are best of friends!

**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 out a form, 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 preschooler. This includes letting us know about bumps and bruises, 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.