



Welcome to the Preschool Room

The preschool teachers would like to welcome you to the preschool program and look forward to getting to know your family. It is going to be a fun year filled with stimulating activities and many learning experiences!

We are committed to providing a curriculum that contributes to each aspect of your child's development while ensuring their safety and security. We aim to provide a supportive atmosphere for the children to grow emotionally, physically and intellectually. We also believe that building a child's feelings of self-worth is paramount to a positive early childhood experience. Through positive reinforcement and genuine affection, we encourage each child to view him/herself as unique individuals and to become self-respectful; therefore learning to respect others in the process. We consistently provide a warm and inviting environment where your child will feel welcome and confident while building on their self-esteem.

You will receive two developmental reports per year while your child is in our classroom. One report will be provided by the end of January and again at the end of June. We will provide you with the report card and you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress through parent teacher interviews upon request.

Our Curriculum:

Preschoolers are ready to learn many new concepts including colors, shapes, numbers, days of the week, names of the month, etc. We feel that it is imperative to allow each child to learn at his/her own pace. Through our day-to-day interactions and our close relationships with each child, we attempt to offer a curriculum that suits each child's individual needs in order for him/her to thrive in the best possible manner. Preschoolers are quickly developing into active learners – always searching for the next greatest interest and challenge. Through play the children have the opportunity and the vehicle to learn. During play experiences, children learn the necessary social, language and communication skills that lead them into future strong relationships and feelings of self-esteem and self-worth as they grow and develop.

Phonics:

In the preschool program all of the children participate in a small group work time that focuses on phonics. Through our planning we have put together a phonics program where all the children can learn at their own pace in a fun and exciting way. The children get to enjoy themselves and have fun with words through rhyming, funny stories, songs and activities. To accommodate the array of learning needs in the classroom the teachers divide into small groups of eight during work time. Each child is given a workbook and or activities that pertain to each lesson. This includes lessons based on colors, shapes, numbers, alphabet and Jolly Phonics curriculum.

Science and Nature:

Science experiences encourage the children to take interest in the world and community around them. Through hands on experiences with objects in the classroom, in nature, in their world, the children gain interest in areas such as...

- ◇ Physical sciences – motion, weight, balance, gravity, buoyancy and temperature
- ◇ Life sciences including plants and animals
- ◇ Earth and environmental sciences – weather, geology, and erosion

Through these learning experiences, children are taught how to respect their environments in turn learning how to respect each other, animals, etc. We hope to provide an array of challenging multi-sensory activities, and materials for experimentation so the children can develop observation skills in order to capture, compare, classify, ask questions, make predictions and test their own ideas. The children also participate in one science experiment each month, as well as one day that is focused on nature activities.

Circle Time:

Circle time is a daily gathering where all the children partake in songs, stories, cognitive games, discussions about current events, language activities, show and tell, etc. We also include many music and gross-motor experiences that incorporate fun in large and small group activities. This is the perfect opportunity to incorporate our phonics program with our large group time so the children can encourage each other and learn from one another while practicing our letter and number recognition!

Show and Share Day:

One day a week we encourage the children to bring in an item from home to share with their classmates. The children are given the opportunity to share and discuss the item with the class during circle time. Please do not bring in home toys daily as we will not be responsible for any damaged or missing toys.

Art/Creative Activities:

We recognize and encourage the importance of the creative potential in each child. They are inventive, original, and self-motivated to be creative individuals. Creative moments encourage children to communicate their feelings towards themselves and their environment. Creativity integrates physical, mental, social and emotional growth. It is encouraged to be free, flexible and accepted. The process is what is important, not the finished product! The art projects are based off the children's interests and then the children use their knowledge and imagination to create their own masterpiece of the creative variety. While engaged in an art activity the children are given a chance to express emotions that they may not feel comfortable or may not be able to express verbally. Not to mention that the children get to practice their fine and gross motor skill with every art project!

Diversity:

Each month our classroom celebrates Diversity day. The diversity activity gives each child an opportunity to express themselves and really be proud of who they are and their background. On Diversity day, the children are encouraged to bring an item from home related to their family background i.e. a shirt from Germany or a doll from England! Diversity exposes the children to different feelings, sights and sounds and it really makes every child feel special. In our classroom, we also have many different diversity pictures on the walls and dolls from around the world for the children to play with and learn from.

Baking:

Every month the classrooms participate in a cooking day! Together the children and teachers prepare a delicious snack or small meal for the children to sample. All products used are nut free and we also incorporate a variety of multi-cultural snacks and fun delicious treats within our cooking classes. The children have an opportunity to be hands on and observe in every aspect of the process.

Field Trips:

Field trips are an exciting time for the children. They can discover and explore new places as well as the people within our community. Each year we plan several outings that are age appropriate and exciting. As parents, you are given the opportunity to volunteer thus giving you a chance to be a part of our program and your child's day. We travel to and from our destinations by school bus, which is quite an exciting trip on its own! We also believe that the children should have many opportunities to explore their immediate community. We can explore the growing and changing leaves, the animals that we see, speak about street signs that we use on our way, the wind that blows on our cheeks and the sticky mud that pulls our boots off! There are so many opportunities for learning and the teachers get great satisfaction looking through the eyes of our children while teaching and guiding them!

ELECT-Early Learning for Every Child Today:

What is Early Learning for Every Child Today? *It is a Framework for Ontario's Early Childhood Settings* that describes how young children learn and develop. It provides a guide for curriculum in Ontario's early childhood settings, including child care centres. It is intended to complement, not replace, the *Ontario Day Nurseries Act*. The *Early Learning for Every Child Today* is based on an extensive review of early childhood curriculum and pedagogy in Canada and internationally, research findings, and the collective professional expertise of the Panel members.

The ELECT tool will allow us to help every child to become an international leader in achieving their social, intellectual, economic, physical and emotional potential to the max. The purpose of the *Early Learning for Every Child Today* is to guide and support curriculum's being used in childcare centres. It also provides direction for programs and features a continuum of developmental skills and a shared language that will support early childhood practitioners and caregivers as they work together across early childhood settings.

Preschool program plans are based upon the ELECT approach. It is organized into five sections, including 1. Social 2. Emotional 3. Communication, Language and Literacy, 4. Cognitive and 5. Physical. All Monkey See Monkey Do educators have ELECT training and implement the framework into our program plans.

Other programs offered throughout the Year:

There are many other activities the children will take part in that are listed on the monthly calendars such as Music, events and trips.

- Yoga , Hip Hop and Martial arts are ½ hour sessions per classroom in the mornings offered for 12 weeks in the year. They offset during the fall, Winter and spring.
- Physical education program called Rainbow Fun is for a ½ hour in the mornings. This will be offered all year long once a week.
- Music runs all through September to June. Each music lesson is ½ hour. At the end of the year we host an end of the year concert and graduation ceremony where we share what the children have learned throughout the year!

Reminders:

- Our program starts at 9:00am which includes special curricular activities, phonics and creative arts. Arriving early will ensure that your child takes part in all classroom activities and avoid disruption to the programs taking place.
- Make sure that you provide extra clothing in your child's cubby at all times. Please label all of your children's belongings. This reduces the chance of items being lost.
- Please send "inside shoes" (not slippers with soft soles, due to a possible fire drill) for your child during the winter months as they will need to change their boots for outdoor play.
- Don't forget to supply us with diapers, wipes and a sleep blanket in a storage bag. Sleep blanket will be sent home weekly to be washed.
- Please have your child come in with a water bottle each day that goes home each night to be washed☺.
- During the warmer seasons please bring sunscreen and a hat. In the winter time please bring in spare mittens, socks and snow pants and hat.

Above all we are educated, experienced, and warm professionals who will give your children the absolute best care within the nurturing and stimulating environments that we have created. We look forward to helping your children grow into inquisitive and curious little people. We look forward to making you a part of our teaching team. Please let us know of any support that you would like to lend or information that you feel would benefit our program and your children's learning opportunities.



Welcome to our classroom!

Preschool 1 Daily Routine & Schedule

7:00-9:00

Drop off
Free-play
Breakfast
Washroom routine

9:00-11:30

Outside time
Free-play
Small group activities (creative, phonics, fine motor)
Special activities (yoga, martial arts, music, cooking, etc.)
Large group learning (cognitive circle)
Washroom routine

11:30-2:30

Lunch
Nap/rest time
Washroom routine

2:30-4:00

Outside time
PM snack
Washroom routine

4:00-6:00

Small group activities (sensory, fine motor, creative)
Free-play
Gross motor activities
Large group learning (music & movement)
Pick up





June 1, 2010

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to inform you that **Monkey See Monkey Do** is participating in *Quality First*. Quality First is an initiative within Halton that supports early childhood programs to further develop the level of quality care and education they offer to young children and their families.

Quality First is based on the following indicators of quality childcare:

- **Environment/Curriculum:** are appropriate learning materials and experiences available for children in a safe and caring environment?
- **Supervision/Administration:** does the Supervisor support the staff team?
- **Professionalism:** do teachers participate in professional activities and life-long learning?
- **Inclusion:** does the childcare have policies that support the inclusion of children with special needs? Does the childcare support diversity?
- **Adult/Child Interactions:** do teachers interact with children with sensitivity?
- **Support for Early Childhood Education Students:** does the centre accept Early Childhood Education students and support them as a field placement site?

Programs are supported through an ongoing process which includes: observation and evaluation of the program, self-evaluation and goal setting, staff professional development, resources and support from a consultant. Commitment to Quality is an ongoing process. By participating in Quality First, we have made a commitment to increase and maintain the quality of care and learning we provide to the children and families of **Monkey See Monkey Do**.

We encourage you to ask us more about Quality First and our progress and achievements. Please refer to the Quality First poster located in the hallway and the materials we have provided.

For more information and a list of Quality First Centres in Halton please visit www.mcrc.on.ca/thrc/ and click on Quality First. For inquires please contact:

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Sincerely,

MSMD