

# COUNTRY JUNCTION PRESCHOOL

## OUR PHILOSOPHY OF LEARNING

**B**ased on the theory that children learn through free play as well as through formal instruction, our daily schedule is designed to balance structure (direction-following) and free choice times as well as allowing for active and quiet times. Classroom routines encourage active involvement, meaningful experimentation, and reinforcement through repetition.

We believe that young children learn best in an environment that allows them to interact with other children. Our classroom provides many learning stations with a rich variety of materials for children to manipulate. During free play they may choose the learning stations that interest them most and interact with other children who have the same interests. During circle and instruction time our well-designed curriculum helps young children build the skills they will need to be excited about learning and build the foundation to become confident students.

We believe that children progress through the same stages of development, but each at his/her own individual pace. Our curriculum and learning stations allow children, at different stages of development, to use the same materials in ways that are meaningful and appropriate for them. Some of the learning stations at our preschool include:

- ✂ ***CREATIVE ART***
- ✂ ***HOUSEKEEPING / DRESS UP***
- ✂ ***LIBRARY***
- ✂ ***BLOCKS / CONSTRUCTION***
- ✂ ***MANIPULATIVES / GAMES***
- ✂ ***SCIENCE***
- ✂ ***SENSORY TABLE***
- ✂ ***MUSIC & LISTENING***

Throughout the school year, we enhance every station with a variety of materials, to reinforce what has been introduced to the children during instruction time. Therefore each station provides new experiences as the children learn more about themselves and their environment.

In a caring and positive atmosphere, we create a warm and happy place for preschoolers to learn and grow. As we bridge the gap from home to school, we guide children to a continued good self-image while building good behavioral and social skills in a school setting.

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## OUR CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is based on monthly themes that provide young children with a wealth of information that they find fun and exciting. Materials and activities are introduced which are both child-centered and teacher-directed. All themes are designed to help build sensory, motor, and language skills in each child.

September - June monthly themes may include:

- ✂ ***OFF TO SCHOOL/FRIENDS***
- ✂ ***APPLES***
- ✂ ***ALL ABOUT ME***
- ✂ ***PUMPKINS***
- ✂ ***HALLOWEEN***
- ✂ ***COLORS OF FALL***
- ✂ ***HARVEST & FARMS***
- ✂ ***THANKSGIVING***
- ✂ ***BEARS***
- ✂ ***HAPPY HOLIDAYS***
- ✂ ***WINTER WONDERLAND***
- ✂ ***TRANSPORTATION***
- ✂ ***SPACE***
- ✂ ***COMMUNITY HELPERS***
- ✂ ***FAMILIES***
- ✂ ***WIND RAIN AND RAINBOWS***
- ✂ ***NURSERY RHYMES***
- ✂ ***DINOSAURS***
- ✂ ***SPRING***
- ✂ ***BUGS***
- ✂ ***ZOO ANIMALS***
- ✂ ***UNDER THE SEA***

Every day we encourage self help skills and good hygiene thereby helping each child become more independent. We also include colors, shapes, numbers and the alphabet into our curriculum. We celebrate many holidays throughout the school year including Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines Day, and others. As we integrate these basic skills, holidays, and monthly themes into our curriculum and learning stations, we provide a well-rounded learning environment for your preschooler.

# COUNTRY JUNCTION PRESCHOOL

## POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Monthly Newsletter & e-mail: Our monthly newsletter as well as teacher e-mails is our way of communicating to all of our parents about what's going on at preschool. Please be sure to read them for information regarding daily themes, sharing days (show-n-tell), school holidays, reminders, and more. You will also receive your monthly tuition invoice and the Scholastic book order on each monthly newsletter.

Departure and Arrival: Please bring your child into the building at class time, and come inside to pick them up. Remember to sign them in and out each day. No child should ever enter or leave the building without an adult. If your child is going home with another child in the preschool or being picked up by someone else, please inform the teacher and make a note on the sign-in sheet. Late pick-ups from morning classes and early arrivals for afternoon classes leave teachers without adequate preparation and lunch time. Please, be considerate and time your arrival and departures properly.

Your Child's Progress: Because the preschooler is an extremely changeable being and his/her growth and maturity occurs at different stages and rates, we feel that regular parent - teacher conferences for every child is unnecessary. Comparisons of your preschooler to others is not good for parent or child. We do however begin assessments for our pre-K students to help strengthen needed skills prior to Kindergarten. Of course, if you have any concerns about your child's development, maturity, or behavior and would like to discuss it with us, please let us know and we will be happy to arrange a time when we can meet with you. We will also let you know of any special concerns we have about your child.

Illness: Please do not bring your child to preschool if he/she is not feeling well. If your child becomes ill while in our care, we will call you or your emergency contact person and request that your child be picked up as soon as possible. Children with fever, diarrhea, or vomiting in a previous 24-hour period should be kept at home. Children who are too sick to participate in the full program, including outdoor play, need to be kept home as well.

### Miscellaneous:

- Parents give consent for school staff to photograph their children for use in classroom displays, student projects and in class yearbooks.
  
- Parents need to keep the preschool informed of any changes in address, phone numbers, employment, and emergency information.
  
- If your child has occasional accidents, please bring a backpack with extra clothes for your child each day.

# COUNTRY JUNCTION PRESCHOOL

## BEHAVIOR \ DISCIPLINE

We try to gently guide and redirect the children to help them learn to cooperate with their peers and solve problems in a positive manner. If a child is having continued problems cooperating in an area of the room, he/she is asked to go to another area, i.e., "Lou, I'm sorry but that is not how we play with the blocks, please go to the puzzle table or the art table."

If group behavior is a problem, the area that has become a problem for the group is closed and the group is broken up and redirected to other activities in the room. Sometimes just a touch on the shoulder can remind a child of our presence and this will in turn put him/her back on track.

If after using our redirecting methods, a child still seems to have a problem with appropriate behavior, the child is asked to sit out for a few minutes. This is a time-out spot in the classroom to think about what he/she has done. With the help of the teacher's discussion, together the child can think of what might be a better way to interact with the other children, materials, etc. Time out is never longer than five minutes, depending on the age of the child and the behavior itself.

Children with consistent difficulties are taken through the above procedures, and the parents are asked to help. Ultimately, the child could be dismissed from the program. This is seriously considered when the health, safety and welfare of the child or other children in the group are at risk.

Please be assured that under the law, any form of hitting, corporal punishment, abusive language, ridicule, harsh or humiliating or frightening treatment is illegal and is against our philosophy. *NONE OF THESE FORMS OF PUNISHMENT WILL EVER TAKE PLACE* at Country Junction Preschool.

On a final note, we try to be as consistent as possible with our classroom rules and routines so that the children will continue to learn what is expected of them. We find that this consistency helps all the children a great deal and leads to their success at school.

**2011-12 TUITION, FEES, HOLIDAYS.....**

# COUNTRY JUNCTION PRESCHOOL

## Monthly Tuition

T\TH A.M. \$235.00    A.M. & P.M. Pre-K \$275.00    M/W/TH 3s/4s P.M. \$260.00

The first months (Sept.) tuition is due prior to the first day of school. The following months' tuition fees are due by the **5th of each month Oct-June**. A \$10.00 late fee is charged for payments made after the 10th. Payment by check is preferred. Returned checks will be charged \$25.00 to cover bank fees. Your tuition invoice will be attached to your monthly newsletter and distributed to you through your child's cubby at the first of each month. Please be sure to make payment by mail or in the payment box located in the cubby room or at the entrance of each classroom.

## **ABSENCES AND WITHDRAWAL**

Thirty days' written notice must be given to the school if a child is to withdraw from enrollment. Parents are responsible for each month's tuition, in spite of absences. The school's budget and teachers' salaries are based on full enrollment; therefore compensation cannot be given for absences due to illness or vacations.

## **SEPTEMBER 2011 - JUNE 2012 CLASS TIMES**

M\W\F & M/W/TH A.M. ARRIVAL 9:15 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. DEPARTURE

M\W\TH P.M. ARRIVAL 12:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. DEPARTURE

T\TH A.M. ARRIVAL 9:15 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. DEPARTURE

## **HOLIDAYS**

Country Junction Preschool follows the same vacation and holiday schedule as the Snoqualmie Valley School Districts (with a few exceptions). A full year calendar is included in this handbook, on our website ([www.countryjunctionpreschool.org](http://www.countryjunctionpreschool.org)) and we will add holiday reminders in your monthly newsletter.

## **WEATHER**

When Snoqualmie Valley School District #410 is closed due to snow or other adverse weather conditions, the preschool will also be closed. When SVSD is on a 2 hours late schedule, we will delay all a.m. classes by 1 hour (classes will begin at 10:15 and end at the usual time). If one class should miss more than 4 days, we will make up the days in June. Please be sure to listen to the radio or T. V. on those mornings in question. SchoolReport.org is a great website to get district school delay or closure information. We usually try to e-mail everyone in the class as soon as we know of a school closure or delay.