

# Polka Dot Preschool

Connecting One Dot at a Time...

## ROLE OF FAMILIES

Family cohesiveness plays a vital role in children's lives. In order to provide consistent care and familiarity for a student, we believe in the importance of establishing and maintaining close relationships with a student's family. Polka Dot Preschool values the 'Home Away From Home' philosophy.

Acceptance and accommodation of a families' needs play a primary role in the program we provide. The relationship is enhanced through positive support, encouragement and a sense of partnership.

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Polka Dot Preschool believes a student's learning occurs when they are provided with carefully planned opportunities by interacting with materials and situations that promote a high level of discovery. It is the teacher's function to structure and guide a student's environment to promote innovation and learning through a combination of planned curriculum & free play. The preschool believes in fostering a positive self-image and enhancing self-esteem during a student's growing years and respect & consideration for others in all aspects.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

### CREATIVITY CORNER

At Polka Dot Preschool, we believe art work is a free and creative expression of inner thoughts. Art projects allow a student to develop expressive ability and imagination and all the while offering a sense of pride and accomplishment for a job well done!

Basic manipulative skills such as painting, pasting, cutting, crayon skills and modeling with clay allow a student an opportunity to communicate their feelings about themselves and their environment. The activities also teach a student to follow instructions and learn sequencing skills. On a weekly basis, teachers will add new activities of creative fun.

This source of self-expression is a vital part of a student's development and understanding towards the arts. We encourage you to take the time to discuss their artwork by asking engaging questions about the particular art piece. **Try not to forget to display it in a prominent place! The family refrigerator has been the common spot for many generations. Make it yours, too!**

### SKILL BITS: COGNITIVE/SMALL MOTOR ACTIVITIES

Skill bits are the place to find activity sheets and projects to enhance the development of cognitive skills. With a variety of skill levels, we introduce and reinforce such skills as matching, sequencing, recognition, letter sounds and more. These activities also help develop fine motor skills, color and shape concepts, mathematical readiness and problem solving capabilities.

### DRAMATIC PLAY

The dramatic play component includes such props as a dress up and hand puppets. We offer various situational type settings where a student can play office, grocery shopping, housekeeping, block play etc. These 'settings' provide an opportunity to learn about feelings and to experiment with social skills, while enhancing communication and language abilities through self-expression and role-playing.

### CIRCLE TIME

Circle time is a daily activity where a student participates in good morning sing-a-longs and group discussions such as calendar and weather activities. At this time, the teacher discusses the theme of the week, which includes theme songs, story time, and group games.

### READING CORNER

The reading corner provides an area for a student to relax. It gives a student a chance to experience enjoyment and pleasure in literature, thereby developing many pre-reading skills such as concentration and word recognition.

### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Music and movement encourages self-expression and creativity. It has been said that "music is the international language". The preschool's weekly music routine develops an awareness of sounds, tones, rhythm and flexibility of the body. Music encourages a student's awareness and confidence of their inner rhythms.

### SPORTPLAY

Sportplay multi-sport programs benefit all students. Their child-centered, play-based programs are designed to develop Gross Motor and Athletic Skills in a positive, supportive, non-competitive environment. The key to Sportplay's success is connecting with students and getting them excited and enthusiastic about sports. They create fun games and activities from individual skills that inspire students to participate and allow them to explore and practice skills through play. **The monthly fee is \$5.00.** \*(Subject to change without formal notice)

### SAND AND WATER PLAY

This offers an opportunity for a student to explore, create, feel, and discover the properties of water and sand. It promotes social contacts and sharing experiences. It develops an understanding of math and scientific physical components such as size, shape, and volume, floating, sinking, full and empty.

### SCIENCE, NATURE AND MULTICULTURAL CORNER

The science, nature, and multicultural corner teach about early math and science concepts, about the world around them, and about the different cultural environments.

A monthly cultural awareness lesson will be the focal point at Polka Dot Preschool where costumes, artwork, pictures, historical sites and facts will be viewed on a specific country.

## LARGE MOTOR SKILLS

Daily outdoor activities provide a student ample opportunity to ride a bike or tricycle, run, jump, hop, skip and climb. This promotes good health and development of growing young bodies as well as assisting in the development of balance and motor coordination. We also use this as an opportunity to promote social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and cooperating. The playground is divided into 4 developmental areas that encourage a student to succeed. The playgrounds are equipped with play structures, bicycle paths, a sensory area, and chalkboards where free expression is promoted.

## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are an important part of the program and occur throughout the year. Prior to each excursion, detailed information will be sent home along with a consent form to be signed and dated by parents. When going on field trips, teacher/student ratios will be met at all times. Parents that wish to join any field trip will gladly be welcomed. **Field trips may require an extra fee depending on the excursion.** Field trips are geared towards the preschool & kindergarten classrooms; however parents will be notified if the toddler classroom will be included.

**Excursions include but are not limited to:** Animal Farms, Solar Stage Theatre or Reptilia Centre