



Smart Start Preschool

In Hidden Springs

Parent Handbook

Dear Parents,

You are about to become an important part of Smart Start Preschool. This handbook has been assembled for you to use while your child is enrolled in our program. Should questions arise or you need to reach us, please call the school at:

208-246-9727

*or email: **smartstartpreschool1234@gmail.com***

We are looking forward to having your child in our school this year. Our goal is to provide a quality educational program that inspires children to create, discover and achieve.

Great care and attention are given by teachers to the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of each child. It is important that children build strong and confident feelings about themselves as capable beings, excited about learning, who can function successfully and dependently in the world.

You and your child are important to us. Success depends on establishing an effective partnership between home and school. We are looking forward to a great year at Smart Start Preschool.

Sincerely,

Erin Tippetts

Mission Statement

Smart Start Preschool strives to create a safe learning environment, which promotes developmentally appropriate education and social skills for young children to learn about themselves, others and their surroundings. Emphasis is placed on self-esteem, creativity, and the development of the whole child. Smart Start utilizes a system of manipulative materials within a structured environment where exploration, discovery and learning take place. The focus is to teach readiness skills for Kindergarten as well as instill the desire for life-long learning. A team approach between parents, children and teacher is essential for a consistent, quality education and experience.

Hidden Springs

Schedules and Tuition

Registration, supplies and material fee
\$100 each school year

Early Preschool: (3 years old)
Tuesday and Thursday
\$2025 annually (\$225/mo)

Pre-K program: (4-5 years old)
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
\$2610 annually (\$290/mo)

Class Times

9:00-11:30

Extended Care offered: 11:30-2:00 or 3:00 on Mon, Wed, Fri
Kindergarten Enrichment: 11:45-3:00 on Tue/Thu

Before School Care offered: 7:00-9:00 am
After School Care offered 3:00-6:00 on Monday-Friday

Smart Start Preschool *in Hidden Springs*

2020-2021 Curriculum

AUGUST: All About Me!

SEPTEMBER: Transportation & Tools OCTOBER: Harvest and Halloween

NOVEMBER: Pioneers and Thanksgiving DECEMBER: Christmas around the World JANUARY: Australia

FEBRUARY: Valentine's Day and Communication MARCH: Dinosaurs

APRIL: Nursery Rhymes

MAY: Pets

2010-2021 School Year Calendar-HS AUGUST 17 : BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

AUGUST 17: MEET THE TEACHER/ ORIENTATION AUGUST 18 & 19: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 7: NO SCHOOL –LABOR DAY

OCTOBER 16: NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER 22-23: NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER 29 & 30: HALLOWEEN PARTY

NOVEMBER 19 & 20: FRIENDSHIP FEAST

NOVEMBER 23-27: NO SCHOOL- THANKSGIVING VACATION DECEMBER 18: WINTER PERFORMANCE

DECEMBER 19 & 20: CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 23– JAN 8: NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK JANUARY 18: NO SCHOOL – MARTIN

LUTHER KING JR DAY FEBRUARY 15: NO SCHOOL- PRESIDENT'S DAY

MARCH 4: KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

MARCH 22 - 26: NO SCHOOL- SPRING BREAK

MAY 7: MOTHER'S DAY TEA

MAY 25: MOVING UP CEREMONY

MAY 26 & 27 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Daily Schedule

9:00 - 9:15	Greeting
9:15 - 9:30	Morning Circle Time
9:30 - 10:30	Self-selected Learning
10:30 – 10:45	Clean-up and Circle Time
10:45 - 11:00	Snack
11:00 - 11:15	Recess
11:15 - 11:30	Enrichment Programs (<i>Music, Show & Tell, Spanish or yoga</i>)

Self-Selected Learning Centers:

Art Table: Each day, an age appropriate art activity is available for the children. The activities will include gluing, painting, coloring and creating with a variety of art materials. Creations may not always look complete or pretty, but it is the process, rather than the product that is important.

Activity Table: May include such items as puzzles, stencils, stationary, games, play dough, manipulatives, aesthetic and cognitive based activities

Writing Center: Paper, pencils, stencils, stationary, glue, notebooks, envelopes, stamps, stickers and other writing accessories for children to “write” with.

Dramatic Play Area: Will change regularly in theme and materials.

Easel: Available for painting, drawing and artistic creations.

Sensory Table: Including such materials as water, sand, birdseed, flour, rice, shaving cream, beans, paper & scissors, etc.

Block Center: Wooden blocks, legos, and other manipulatives to create with.

Science/Math Corner: Science projects and activities to investigate, such as scales, magnifying glasses, nature items, etc.

Library Area: A cozy corner with books and books on CD, which will change in theme and variety regularly, for children to relax and enjoy and read.

PHILOSOPHY

At Smart start preschool, we organize our curriculum around themes chosen with children's interest in mind. It's important that children learn to enjoy the process of learning. We want children to be confident in their ability to master new skills and learn new ideas, to understand that success requires effort, to take pride in their accomplishments, and to retain their natural curiosity. We use themes to explore the world with activities that emphasize hands on, sensory experiences and integrated learning.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), studies show that children who experience developmentally appropriate teaching practices in preschool and kindergarten do better in elementary school. Some research indicates that developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood education can lead to higher achievements throughout life.

Our goal is to assist children to be enthusiastic, effective, lifelong learners. At Smart Start Preschool, we support children's learning with a play-based curriculum, emphasizing the process of learning rather than specific benchmarks that we expect children to meet by the end of the year. By encouraging children to question, hypothesize, experiment and solve problems, we help them to develop important critical thinking skills. By observing and describing the world around them, and engaging in hands on sensory activities, children lay the foundation for later learning. We use an integrated curriculum because we believe this is how children learn best.

At Smart Start Preschool, children most often:

- Lead...rather than follow the teacher.
- Create...rather than duplicate.
- Move...rather than wait.
- Make the lines...rather than color in the lines.
- Speak...rather than listen passively.
- Initiate...rather than imitate.
- Raise questions...rather than answer the teacher's questions.
- Solve their own problems...rather than the teacher's problems.
- Make art...rather than do crafts.
- Emphasize the process...rather than the product.
- Use authentic skills...rather than drill and practice.
- Make books...rather than fill in workbooks.
- Decide...rather than submit.
- Choose wisely...rather than being told.
- Make a plan...rather than follow the teacher's plan.
- Try again...rather than fail.

Discipline

Positive methods of discipline will be used to encourage self confidence, self-esteem, and self-control. For example, directing a child to another activity rather than away from an activity, distracting or redirecting a child from a problem situation, helping children to understand that they are acceptable but their behavior or actions are not acceptable and why, and encouraging children to cooperate with others and solve problems by using words not actions.

We will give guidance in a calm, succinct and orderly fashion and provide a variety of stimulating planned activities with choices for the children.

The children will be made aware of, and expected to adhere to three basic rules.

1. The safety rule
2. The welcome rule
3. The respect rule

Our school rules are appropriate to the situation and the child's level of understanding. (i.e. throwing toys is not allowed because someone could get hurt. If a friend wishes to join you the answer is yes, so that feelings are not hurt).

Parents will be informed if their child is having behavior problems. We will work together to find solutions that are in the best interest of the child and the school. If a child's behavior becomes violent and uncontrollable we reserve the right to dismiss the child from school after exhausting all possibilities as discussed with the parents.

General Policies

Parent Correspondence

A sign-in sheet with a section for writing notes and a volunteer calendar are located in our entry area. Please leave any relevant notes for us when signing in your child each day. The volunteer calendar is to be used for signing up to volunteer or celebrating a birthday. School newsletters will be sent via email, and will keep you abreast of what is going on at school. We will distribute your child's artwork and any other correspondence in your child's cubby. Please check this daily and take home all items as cubbies are often shared.

Attendance

If your child will be missing school or unusually late, please notify the school. If your child will be missing school for an extended period, such as a family vacation, please let us know in writing. If parents will be out of town for the day or for several days please notify the school and provide the name and phone numbers of the person who is responsible for your child. There are no make up days for days your child misses school.

Drop-Off

All children must be accompanied by an adult to and from the preschool and signed in and out each day. School begins at 9:00 a.m. each day. Please try to arrive to school on time. Making your good-byes brief and loving helps your child make the separation less difficult. Separation anxiety diminishes as your child becomes more familiar and comfortable with his/her new surroundings. Upon arrival, please direct your child to sign-in at our children's sign-in table, and use a squirt of hand sanitizer.

Pick-up

If someone other than a parent will be picking up your child, please inform us the morning of in writing. Your child will not be released to an unknown person without notice. If you know you are going to be late in picking up your child, please contact the school as soon as possible. After five minutes late, a late charge of \$1.00 per minute will be charged. Thank you for your promptness!

Illness

Please make sure that your emergency numbers are kept current and that you can be reached immediately whenever your child is at school. If your child becomes ill while at school, you will be notified and expected to pick up your child as soon as possible. Please inform the school if your child will not be attending school due to an illness. In an effort to keep everyone at school healthy, please do not bring your child to school if he or she has any of the following symptoms:

- ** A fever of 101 or higher your child must be fever free for 24 hours*
- ** Vomiting two or more times in the last 24 hours*
- ** Diarrhea three or more times in the last 24 hours.*
- ** A cough.*
- ** Conjunctivitis/pinkeye or a discharge from the eye- wait 24 hours after medication begins*
- ** Fatigue or illness which will prevent participation in daily activities or that take too much provider time and attention away from others.*
- ** Lice—Inform the school immediately so precautions can be taken.*
- ** Sore throat and/or swollen glands.*
- ** Ear infection.*
- ** Mucus/cloudy runny nose.*

Please use your best judgment with any illness or possible illness. If you feel your child may be contagious, please be considerate of others and keep them home.

Potty-Training and Diapers.

Many children in our early preschool class are still working on potty training. With a 2 1/2 hour day, children who are not quite potty trained but working on it, are still welcome to start school, and we will continue the potty-training efforts at school. However, Smart Start Preschool is not set up for changing diapers, and is something we are not able to do. If your child has a bowel movement while at school, you will be notified and will need to be available to come and change the diaper right away.

Snack

All children are served a snack each day. If there are certain foods that your child cannot eat, please let us know. Please let us know of any food allergies that your child has before the first day of school. In an effort to provide hearty and healthy snacks, and expose children to a variety of foods, we ask that each family provide a snack donation of a fresh fruit or vegetable, or perishable dairy product (yogurt and cheese), once a month to supplement the dry portion of the snack we provide. There are no scheduled days as to when your snack donations should come in. As a general rule, If your child's last name begins with an A-L, please aim for the first half of the month. If your child's last name begins with an M-Z, please aim for the second half of the month.

Please give your snack donations to a teacher in the morning, and we will refrigerate necessary items as they come in. If you know you are going to be shopping for snack items, feel free to ask what we are in need of. We can tell you what we are low on, and what we have plenty of! When possible, please let your child be involved in choosing produce and snacks at the grocery store with you and feel free to get creative! We love to let children try new and exotic foods with their peers. We are able to peel and cut up fruits and vegetables at school.

Clothing

We get dirty at Smart Start! Many activities include messy project. While we do provide smocks, your child should not have to worry about his or her clothes, so please help your child dressing comfortable, washable garments. Weather permitting, we will be going outside every day. Please send appropriate jackets, hats and gloves during the winter months. In the winter months, when your child comes to school in rain or snow boots, you are welcome to leave slippers with your child to wear during the day.

Sunscreen

please apply sunscreen to your child before school when needed.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell takes place at school in small groups on a weekly basis. Each child will be allowed to bring one item from home to share. Please help your child choose just one item from home each week that they would like to share.

Toys

Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school unless it is a show and tell day. Toys and items brought from home tend to cause problems with sharing, get lost, and are a distraction to others.

Special person

Each child will be scheduled a week to be our "Special Person". When possible we will schedule this around your child's birthday, and invite you to come and celebrate your child with us during circle time one day during that week. Thursday and Friday are the suggested days but we will work with your schedule. Providing a special snack, (birthday or favorite food) is encouraged during this week. Directions for decorating a special person poster will be sent home in advance, and a poster adorned with family pictures etc. can be brought in for your child's entire special week.

Birthdays and Holidays.

We love to celebrate birthdays and most holidays at school. Please schedule a date to celebrate your child's birthday at school, likely during your child's special person week. If your child's birthday does not fall on a school day, you may choose another day to celebrate. If your child's birthday falls in the summer, we will still celebrate your child during the week they are special person, and a special snack can be provided at that time. Sign-up sheets for providing a special snack or party supplies for holiday parties will be posted so you can participate in our holiday celebrations. Please watch for these sign-up sheets in the entry area before Holiday celebrations.

Many Thanks!

COVID-19 procedures

The health and safety of our children and families is our highest priority. To mitigate the risks of COVID-19 while children are in our care, we have adopted additional health and safety measures based on CDC guidelines, state and local regulations, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Given the evolving situation, we will continue to update these protocols as necessary.

**Increased cleaning and sanitizing protocols along with increased focus on hand washing and hygiene standards.*

**Teachers will wear masks while caring for children. Children will not be required to wear masks.*

**A health screening will be filled out each day for every child. We will screen temperatures of staff and children upon arrival. Anyone with a temperature of at least 100.4 degrees or showing other signs of illness is not permitted to enter the facility. If a child becomes ill during the day, they will stay in a separate area while awaiting pickup.*

**Staff members are the only adults permitted to enter the building. Staggered pick up and drop off take place outside the facility.*

**Children will have individual art supplies, We will circulate air, spend plenty of time outside, and run learning stations and group times in smaller groups, throughout the classroom.*