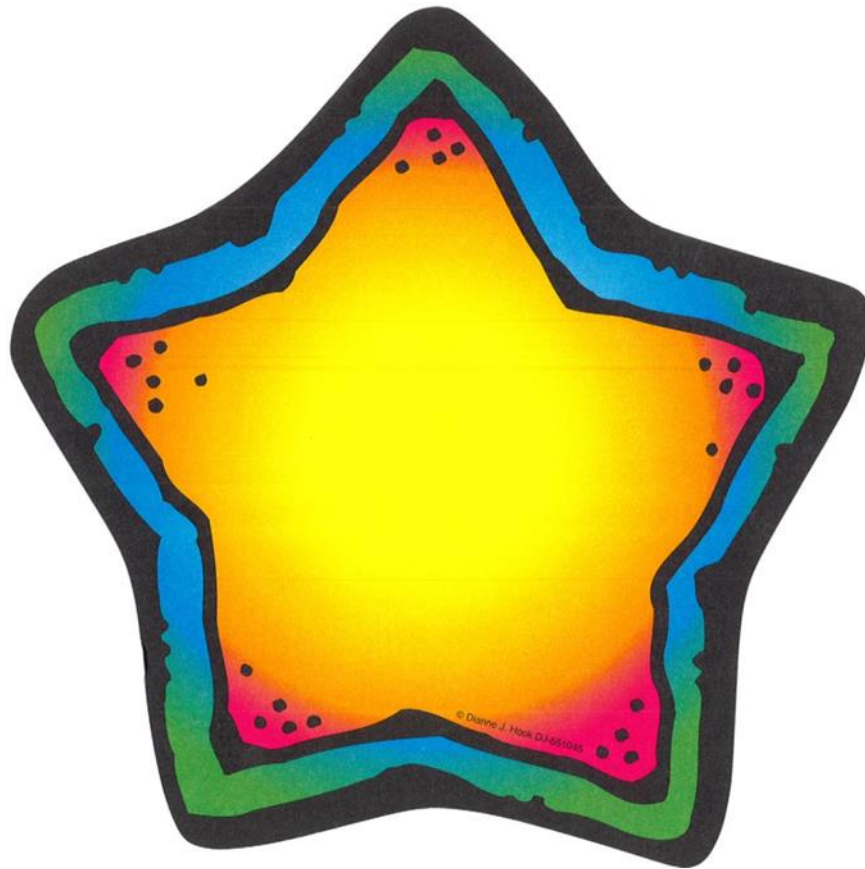




French Beginnings Nursery School



Program Information

French Beginnings Nursery School Program Overview

Welcome to French Beginnings Nursery School Program we are looking forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the year. Nursery School is a play based program where children are able to construct their own learning through varied play experiences. For some of the children this will be their first experience in a formal setting without their parents or caregivers. It is an exciting time but also a time of apprehension and anxiety for both children and parents. We are here to offer our support and guidance to your family and hope to make your child's time at Nursery School positive, fun and stimulating. We will also try to answer any questions or concerns you have. It is best to talk to staff before or after class as we will be better able to focus on the conversation at hand. There is usually at least one staff member in the room by 8:45am.

Goals

Our goals for the year are communication and parent involvement. We would like to work in partnership with you to assist in your child's development. Your child's learning will become more visible to both teachers and parents as they explore new materials and experiences while being part of a group at Nursery School. During the last two months of our school year we will extend our learning experiences out into the community by going on field trips.

Anyone with ideas or resources that we could use to enhance our program is welcome to talk to us and we will see how we can incorporate them into the program.

Virtues

We will be using "The Virtues Project" as a tool to encourage moral and social development. The goal of this program is "to bring out the best in every child and every member of the family." We will reinforce and acknowledge virtuous behavior in the children. For example, "Rachel, you showed kindness towards Alyssa when you made room on the carpet for her, that made her feel welcome." The use of virtues empowers children to make moral choices and resolve problems with their own inner strength.

Communication and Parent Involvement

Each child will have a journal that will circulate between Nursery School and home each day. This will help us to learn about your child's personality and abilities. We encourage you and your child to do this together and we request only one simple entry each time. There may be items glued on a page that were found on a nature walk, drawings or a painting to explain something important that your child was a part of. At home, your child can re-visit a school experience and "read" their journal to you and other family members. This is a great beginning to promoting early literacy skills, verbal skills and self esteem. Please take it home each day and bring it back to Nursery School. We will be starting journals at the end of October.

Schedule

8:50-9:00	Arrival- During this time, please take your child to use the bathroom, get dressed and ready in appropriate outdoor/indoor clothing and take indoor shoes out of backpack and put in locker.
9:00-9:30	Outside/inside Play – Sign your child in and the group will go out to Adventure Playground with teachers
9:30-9:50	Bathroom break & snack time - Change into indoor clothes, wash hands, eat snack
9:50-10:00	Story time - Join a story in progress as children finish snack
10.00-11:10	Free Play/Table Activities - During this time, your child will have the chance to explore the play environment, as well as engage in imaginative play. A table activity will also be offered at this time. The goal of the table activity varies and may be selected to correspond with the group's interest, introduce a new skill or provide a new and different experience.
11:10-11:15	Clean-up
11:15-11:30	French Circle
11:30	Home Time

Please be here on time for pick up. Arrival after 11:35 will result in a late pick-up fee on your bill.

Additional Information

The nursery program is a French Beginnings program in which we will be learning basic vocabulary mostly during circle time. We are not an immersion program therefore English is spoken in the room. Mme Martin is the only francophone on staff and she will be speaking exclusively in French beginning in November. This will enhance the vocabulary that we will be learning at circle time.

Nature education is an important part of Discovery Children's Centre. To this end we will be starting each day outside rain or shine. The only time we will start the day indoors is if it is too cold in the winter and we will put up a sign by the lockers advising parents. It is therefore imperative that your children have the appropriate clothing and footwear; a staff member will not be coming indoors with children who are cold or wet. Depending on the weather we may cut short our time outdoors but we will still be going out.

We will be bringing nature into the room by way of the materials we use as well as art supplies. We will also be taking our learning outdoors. If you have interesting things that you would like to donate like pine cones, birds' nests, pieces of wood or rocks please feel free to do so.

Please refer to the white board outside the room for general news and the monthly calendar to keep you aware of upcoming events.

Please send a bag or backpack with your child everyday with the following items: an extra set of clothes and inside shoes (suitable for running and climbing). Remember to remove shoes from the backpack and put into locker as this will facilitate your child in changing his/her footwear when we come in from outdoors. Because the lockers are shared, the bag goes home with you at the end of the day. In order to prevent clothing items from getting mixed up or misplaced, please label children's shoes, jackets, hats, mitts, etc.

Discovery's environment is set up to consider the unique needs of each child. We make changes to our daily program so that all children can access areas, materials and activities in order to promote growth in all areas of their development.

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to call us at 889-2689.