

Preschool 1 Program Overview



The purpose of this overview is to:

- Help you get acquainted with our program and to answer possible questions you may have.
- Help you better understand Preschool 1, our goals and objectives for the year.

We hope you will find this helpful and welcome any questions or concerns you may have at any time. Thanks for taking the time to read our overview.

Staff of

PS1

Program Goals of Preschool 1

Preschool 1 is a multi-age setting, with children ranging in age from 2-5 years old. Understanding that the development needs of children are so varied, we have divided the group into two groups for our specific circle and activity times. The Rabbits are the younger children (2-3 years old) and the Deer's consist of the older children (3-5 years old).

Our activities and circles do not revolve around a theme-based curriculum. Instead, we believe that children learn more readily when the activities are based on their particular needs, interests, or development levels. We often design our program with specific skills or tasks in mind, helping the children to have the opportunity to learn at their own pace.

Acknowledging the developmental needs of the children, some of the general goals and objectives we have are:

- Encouraging independence in the children to make choices for themselves, when choices are available, in a safe environment.
- Enhancing children's development in the four main areas-cognitive growth, social/emotional growth, physical growth, and spiritual growth.
- Providing developmentally stimulating activities.
- Allowing children to explore a wide array of natural and interesting materials so that they may get better understanding of the world around them.



Preschool One Programming

At Discovery, Staff have been trained in many different aspects of program planning: The first being virtues. Language has a great influence to empower or discourage. Self-esteem is built when shaming, blaming language is replaced by describing each other's virtues. It is applied either when acknowledging or correcting someone. Staff can provide more information on this if you are interested. Below is a list of the 52 virtues.

List of virtues

assertiveness, caring, cleanliness, commitment, compassion, confidence, consideration, cooperation, courage, courtesy, creativity, detachment, determination, diligence, enthusiasm, excellence, flexibility, forgiveness, friendliness, generosity, gentleness, helpfulness, honesty, honour, humility, idealism, integrity, joyfulness, justice, kindness, love, loyalty, moderation, modesty, orderliness, patience, peacefulness, perseverance, purposefulness, reliability, respect, responsibility, self-discipline, service, tact, thankfulness, tolerance, trust, trustworthiness, truthfulness, understanding, unity

The second is Emergent Curriculum. This deals with planning our activities on the needs and interest of the children. Plans are prepared weekly by staff to develop stimulating ideas or activities to enhance and extend the children's learning experiences and the environments they explore.



Communication and Parental Involvement

At Discovery Children's Centre, we encourage family involvement. We consider ourselves to be an extension of your child's family and hope you feel the same.

Besides daily verbal communication with our parents (guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles), we also have a white board outside preschool 1. We would ask that you check it daily. It will have information regarding your child's day and other upcoming events.

Twice a year, we will be doing developmental assessments of your child. You will receive a synopsis of our observations. In addition, we will schedule a parent/teacher night where we will have the opportunity to meet and discuss your child's progress. Our door is always open to you. Please feel free to call, drop in and chat any time you wish. This program's success depends upon involvement from all our families.

Journals

Each child will have a journal that will circulate between day care and home each day. In the journal you will find something written about what your child has done throughout the day. There may be items glued on the page, drawings or even pictures. At home, parents and children may glue in a special treasure found on a walk or tell something interesting. Each day we will be reading the journals with the children.

Since the journals are daily, we will need to rely on you to take it home, work together with your child and have your child bring it to day care and place it in the basket each day. Please be assured that we expect only one simple entry each time. At home, your child can revisit a school experience and "read" the journal to you and other family members. This is a great beginning to literacy skills.

If you have any questions about the journals, please ask. We look forward to working with you.

Some Final Reminders

Please have your child in appropriate “work clothes” as we have an optional smock policy at our centre. We believe that children learn best by doing and our activities sometimes include water, paint, sand, cornstarch, just to name a few.

In addition, with regards to clothes, please ensure your child has a change of clothes. Accidents sometimes occur and we do not provide extra clothes from the centre. Also, we spend a great deal of time outside. To make your child’s experience the most enjoyable, we would ask that they are dressed appropriately for the conditions.

We have a sign in/out sheet that we require you to use. While inside it will always be on the ledge as you walk into Preschool 1.

Our centre parent policy will give you a description of our behaviour management policy. We do not believe in time outs per say. We feel that when children are having a difficult time, they are telling us that they need time to themselves, whether this would be reading a book or doing a puzzle on their own. This generally aids them to recompose themselves. We do not tolerate violence of any kind and will address the issue on an individual basis. We consistently encourage children to be respectful of on another, themselves, parents, and teachers. We also feel that personal responsibility is extremely important and have learned that young children can take ownership with assistance of caring adults.

Preschool 1 Daily Schedule

7:00-7:30 a.m. PS2, free play

7:45-8:50 a.m. PS1, free play

8:50-9:00 a.m. Journals, songs, stories

9:00-9:30 a.m. Snack, Washroom

9:30-10:00 a.m. Groups divide, free play in PS1 & Large muscle room.

10:00-10:30 a.m. Groups divide, Circle time & Gym

10:30-11:20 a.m. Outdoor play

11:20-12:00 p.m. Lunch, Washroom

12:00-2:30 p.m. Nap time (Large Muscle room), quiet time for non-nappers until 1:00 p.m.

2:30-3:15 p.m. Free play, washroom

3:15-3:30 p.m. Stories & Song time

3:30-4:00 p.m. Snack time

4:00-5:00 p.m. Outdoor play, Large muscle room from 4:30-5:00 p.m. depending on weather

5:00-5:30 p.m. Quiet activities in PS1

