



Having a consistent Daily Routine gives us the sense of security that we ALL need in order to feel safe taking risks, making choices, and feeling open to new learning opportunities! Although the learning content will vary, the order of the experiences, once established, will remain a comforting constant.

♥ Play Group Daily Routine ♥

♡ Floor Time - We will play and talk together on the carpeted side of the classroom while everyone has a minute to unload and to settle in!

♡ Greeting/Circle Time - We will greet each other, sing together, and discover what's inside of the "Happy Can"!

♡ Work/Table Time - We will explore the classroom, PLAY together, and choose to create something at the tables! (Sometimes it will be something worthy of taking home and mounting on the refrigerator, and sometimes its value will be purely in the experience! ;)

♡ Clean-Up Time - We will clean up the classroom together, so we know right where to find the things that we love the next time that we return!

♡ Large Group Time - We will gather together for a little music, dancing and a story!

♡ Snack Time - We will wash hands, share a snack, and visit with one another!

♡ Large Motor Time - We will visit the outdoor or the indoor play-ground for some crawling, climbing, and moving our bodies before we say goodbye!

Preschool Daily Routine

♡ Greeting/Outdoor Exploration - We will transition from those who love us at home, and settle in with those who can't wait to see us at school! We will explore the play-ground and the variety of lovely outdoor spaces on the CUMC grounds, in ALL kinds of weather... This is our time for child-initiated, body-moving, curiosity-driven, hands-on, exciting, messy, problem-solving FUN! Rain, shine, or snow, we're bound to make discoveries outdoors that will inspire and direct our future learning and explorations!

♡ Circle Time - We will gather together to wiggle and sing together, recall our previous experiences, and share our plans for the day!

♡ Small Group Time - We will come together in small groups to explore materials selected to further develop our cognitive and social growth, try out new skills, solve problems, promote peer cooperation, and expand on our interests and abilities with the support of our teachers.

♡ Work Time - "PLAY is the WORK of the Child" ♡ We will get to 'work', exploring a variety of both familiar and new materials designed for little learners to experience social-emotional, math, science, literacy, language, and creative representation through PLAY. We will carry out our plans for the day, exploring materials of our choosing from throughout the classroom, and interacting with the children and adults in our school family! This is our time to practice problem solving, to build relationships, to engage in complex play, and to participate in activities of our own choosing!

♡ Snack Time - We will sit together to share a snack, to visit with one another, and to recall the day's events!

♡ Large Group Time - We will gather together for music, for moving, for stories, and for the opportunity to share our thoughts, our ideas, and our space with one another!

♡ Closing Circle - We will end right back where we started--Together with our whole school family, for a story, a song, and good-byes!



Frequently Asked PRESCHOOL Questions



♡ **How many Little Sprouts will be in a class?**

Our

Fours will have a maximum of 18 children, and our Threes a maximum of 15.

♡ **How many teachers will be in the Preschool classroom?**

There will be one teacher, one assistant-teacher, and a Snack & Stay parent each day.

♡ **Is parent participation welcomed?**

We ask each Preschool family to participate in Snack & Stay and spend the morning with us in the classroom 3 times per school year for Threes, and 4 times for Fours!

♡ **When will the school year begin and end?**

Our school year will begin with Parent Orientation meetings, a Meet & Greet morning, and individual student visits at the end of August and the beginning of September. Classes will begin the full week after Labor Day, and will run for 30 weeks.

♡ **What about breaks and holidays?**

Our school year calendar will be aligned with Waterford School District breaks and holidays, and will follow Waterford's lead in the event of inclement weather and/or pandemic-related closures. Any days missed due to snow days/unexpected closures will be added to the end of the session.

♡ **What if my Preschooler is not potty-trained by the time that school starts?**

While it is a requirement that our Preschoolers are no longer in diapers, it is important to remember that even when children become in the habit of using the potty, they still need and will receive gentle reminders, guidance in adjusting clothing and hand washing, and support in the event of an occasional accident—This will be a new skill for many! That being said, 3 is not a magic number, whereby ALL children are ready and able to be free of diapers, and adding the stress of a school deadline to potty-training does not help an already challenging process. If August comes, and your little one is struggling or not showing interest, please seek out the advice of your pediatrician, and reach out to us so that we might be able to collaborate on a supportive plan, or so that we might speak about the alternative option of spending the school year in one of our Family Play Groups!

♥ Will you go outdoors in 'bad' weather?

We have an amazing variety of beautiful outdoor spaces to explore here, and we strongly believe that there is no such thing as 'bad' weather...only 'bad' clothing (choices)! We will dress in layers when the days are cold, in rain gear when the days are wet, and in snow gear when the days are wintry, so that we can learn about the world around us by being immersed in it. We know that little bodies need to move in big spaces EVERY day, so we will be sure to visit our indoor Large Motor spaces when severe weather prohibits us from doing so outdoors!

♥ Will my child need any school supplies?

Although there will be times that the children will be asked to share 'found materials' from home (Leaves, stones, and other lovely little nature treasures), or to complete an occasional task to connect our classroom learning to our at-home experiences, the only daily supplies they'll need are weather appropriate clothing, and a backpack with an extra change of clothing! We will further address snack protocols when the school year draws near. There may be times that classroom donations and snacks are welcomed, but they will never be required.

♥ What if I am looking for an 'academic', rather than a 'play based' program for my preschooler?

"ACADEMICS are the subject... **PLAY** is the method... **LEARNING** is the outcome." - Amanda Morgan
Here's the amazing thing...A high quality program is not one-or-the-other—It is carefully curated experiences, authentic relationships, and real-world explorations that lead to asking questions, making discoveries and expanding on a foundation of prior knowledge every day! Your child will be presented with limitless learning opportunities within the context of play every day.

♥ What if my child has difficulty separating from me?

While it is our goal that the children attend independent of their caregivers, we realize that it may take 'baby steps' to make that happen for everyone! We will work with every family to create a plan that best supports their little ones while at the same time, being compliant with all licensing Health & Safety regulations.

♡ **How do I register for a program?**

Families enrolled in a Playgroup or a Preschool program for the current school year will always have priority registration for the subsequent school year for one week in March. Classes will be filled in the order that applications are received, and registration for any available openings will then be made available to the general public beginning at our Open House, also in March.

♡ **Wait! What if I have more questions?** Please feel free to contact us at any time via e-mail or at 248-683-8759. We look forward to hearing from you, and would be happy to invite you for a visit!

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