



Active Learners Preschool

Welcome...

We would like to welcome you and your child to the Clarendon Hills Park District Active Learners Preschool Program. We hope this newsletter will answer any questions you may have regarding our three-year-old and four-year-old Pre-K programs. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to let us know.

Philosophy

The Clarendon Hills Park District's Active Learners Preschool believes that while children learn through play, we strongly believe in meeting the developmental needs of the whole child by providing an age-appropriate academic curriculum that will prepare your Active Learner for later school success. The staff is guided by a philosophy that each child develops at his or her own pace, and we will provide daily experiences that develop self-esteem, as well as promote independence. The staff will plan activities that will help your child develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually in a fun nurturing environment, as well as addressing the current Illinois Common Core Standards and NAEYC standards.



Class Information

The preschool is staffed with one Preschool Director and one Assistant Director at the ratio of 1 to 8 in our three-year-old program and 1 to 9 in our four-year-old program (if the classes meet the maximum participation limit).

The 3 year old program meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:45 am—11:15 am. The 4 year old program meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday : 12:30 pm—3:00 pm.

CLARENDON HILLS PARK
DISTRICT—315 Chicago
Avenue-Clarendon Hills, IL
60514 *630-323-2626

Fall 2015

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Recreation Based programs.
- ☺ Children have access to various activities throughout the day.
- ☺ A child initiated, teacher-supported curriculum which addresses Core Standards

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What is a Preschool?

- ☑ When your child enters Preschool, they come not only to learn the “three R’s” but to build habits and share experiences that will help them learn the skills which enables all around development.
- ☑ In preschool your child learns to get along with other children.
- ☑ They will learn to work and play in a group and to wait their turn when many want to use the same materials.
- ☑ They will improve their gross and fine motor skills.
- ☑ They will learn to follow simple and reasonable directions, to share common property, and tell about their experiences before a group.
- ☑ Your child will learn how to look at books, to love them, and realize that printed words convey meaning.
- ☑ They will begin to appreciate fine music and will be introduced to self-expression through singing, speaking, drawing, and painting.
- ☑ Preschool is not a “Play” class, because the child is always



learning and developing (Play, as adults term it, is really a “learning experience” for a child). As they engage in dramatic play in the kitchen area, they gain information about home and family. As they draw and paint, or work with clay, they are developing the use of arm and hand muscles which they will later use in handwriting. As they play in the block area they learn the importance of teamwork and problem solving skills.

General Design of a Classroom

Someone casually looking into our classroom might say, “All they do is play!” This statement is true, and we could not be more pleased. Except for the time spent as a group listening to directions, a story, music, and gym time, the children are encouraged to move from center to center. The children can also be seen working in a small group or one-on-one with a teacher to master a skill or concept. Our children learn to explore their environment, make a decision as to what they want, make new friends, learn to share and take their turn, develop discipline, independence, and experiment with new materials.

Centers are set up around the classroom to offer different

types of activities that are changed frequently to keep curiosity aroused. The centers change from week to week depending on the theme. The following types of centers are available:

Fine Motor Table—Group activities such as sorting games and matching. Individual activities such as puzzles, games, and play dough. **Fine Art**—art easels, tracing, cutting and coloring. **Dramatic Play Center**—Complete with kitchen center, dress area, dolls and other items that will expand your child’s imagination. **Large Block Area**—Allows for socialization and creativity. **Large Motor Skills**— Scooters, hula-hoops, parachute, mini bas-

ketball hoop and other equipment are available to use for large motor development. **Project Table**—used daily to teach a specific skill or Common Core goal, This may be done individually or in a small group. Projects are tied into the theme or Common Core concept currently being taught in language; math; social studies and science. **Reading Center**—Provides a rest spot for children needing quiet play time. **Sand / Water Table**—Materials are included to provide experience with measuring, pouring, textures, and temperature through using water, sand, and rice. **Prospect Park** - The Park District has a tot playground in Prospect Park and plenty of open space in the Park for games and activities.

Classroom Routine & Schedule

We firmly believe in routines for children. Classroom routine promotes a feeling of continuity and security for preschoolers, who are not yet able to manage or gauge time by themselves, but rather by routine events (group time, story time, free play and snack time). When young children feel secure in their environment they find discovery and learning easier. For this reason, we will be following a basic schedule each day. Our schedule is flexible when necessary, provides a balance of quiet times and active times, and it allows for various types of play as well as group activities. Within the center's daily schedule, each child has opportunities to create, explore the environment, and learn concepts through first-hand experiences. The routine is one of the most important aspects of teachers, and we ask that you adhere to our time schedule and routine as much as possible. Each session is planned out for both the three and four year olds

with plenty of fun, special events, wonderful arts and crafts projects, education in areas of nature, science, letters, numbers, colors, music, and activities that emphasize motor skills development. The following is a general "Flow-chart" of the day. All general areas are covered each day, however, the order may be switched depending on the goals of the day.

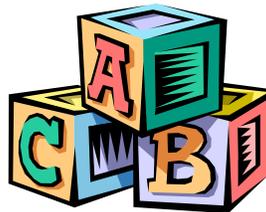
Opening—Children are encouraged to enter the room independently and begin circle time. The day's activities are introduced at this time. This is when the children learn to recognize their names, learn about the weather, how to dress for it and days of the week through fun colorful charts numbers, and songs. **Free time**—Children moved independently from center to center. **Project or art activities**—This is normally related to the letter or theme of the week., and the Common Core

goal being introduced.

Snack—Our weekly newsletters have the names of each child responsible for bringing the snack.

Special Activity—Music, story time, large motor or outdoors. We plan outdoor

time each day, weather permitting. **Closing** - Getting ready to go home! Children will gather their backpacks in which the instructors have put necessary notes, permission slips, newsletters, and art projects. We encourage the children to independently get themselves ready to go home. When they are ready to go they will sit and wait for their name to be called if their parent has chosen the pick up line. The teacher will escort them to the car and help them into their car seat. It is the responsibility of the parent to safely fasten the child in. It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the staff if anyone other than designated persons will be picking up their child.



Arrival / Departure

Our three-year old Preschool Program is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:45 am—11:15 pm. The four-year-old Pre-K program is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. The classroom doors open promptly at the scheduled time to begin class and to dismiss class. Please be on time.

If all the other children have gone home, the few extra



minutes your child waits can be traumatic. Please notify the office at 630-323-2626 if you are going to be extremely late, due to uncontrollable circumstances, so that we can prepare your child. Your child will be taken to our front desk area if you are more than 15 minutes late.

***Let the teacher know if someone other than yourself will be picking up your child from

preschool. It is necessary to fill out the pickup form on the information sheet listing those authorized to pickup your child. If you choose to walk your child into class, or come in to the building to pick up your child, please park in a parking space on the west side of the building. We offer a Drop off/Pick up line for your convenience. There is additional paperwork to be completed if you choose this option.

Important tips as to when to keep a child out of school

If you will not be sending your child to preschool please inform the Office at 323-2626 as soon as possible. If your child contracts a communicable disease, notify the Preschool Director or the office immediately. All parents will be notified as soon as possible. When releasing this information the child's name will be kept confidential. If the instructors feel that your child is sick and should not be in the class, they will use their discretion regarding whether or not to send

your child home. Please keep in mind that if your child is experiencing any of these symptoms it is best to keep your child home. This will help minimize the spread of germs, and keep everyone healthier and happier!



- A moderate fever
- A sore, red throat, earache or

swollen glands

- Any undiagnosed rash or skin eruption
- Nausea, vomiting and / or diarrhea
- Eyes that appear reddened and / or are crusted
- Coughing, sniffing or has a runny nose
- Strep-throat
- Pink-eye with discharge

Dress

Please dress your child in comfortable, washable play clothes so the child can manage themselves. There are many different art activities that tend to be messy. Children will enjoy the program more if they do not need to worry about their clothing. All removable clothing

should be marked with your child's name (including boots). Nametags or indelible ink can be used. Gym shoes or play shoes (rubber soled shoes)

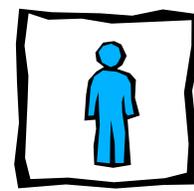


should be worn at all times. ***
The Park District will provide your child with a book bag to carry their projects and important information home. Please put their name or initials inside the book bag. Please remember to check their book bags daily.

Bathrooms



All children **MUST** be able to take care of their own bathroom needs (pull-ups are not acceptable). There are separate gender bathrooms in the preschool room. Children are expected to use them independently.



Miscellaneous Information

Snacks—Parents will be asked to contribute snacks. Keep in mind a light, healthy snack. We ask that you do not bring in snacks high in sugar, such as cupcakes, cakes or cookies. Snack suggestions are fruit, veggies, cheese and crackers, pudding, Jell-O, applesauce, etc. Store bought items should be in their original sealed container. **This is a peanut/tree nut free classroom.** You will receive a newsletter that will have your assigned day for snacks including the quantity needed. The children usually make their snacks on Wednesdays.

Weekly Newsletter—Each calendar covers one week of activities. It is e-mailed each Friday before the start of the week. This newsletter is a brief listing of activities, and any additional notes that may be important.

Bad Weather Days—The Park District does NOT cancel Preschool classes when the School District cancels school. The Park District makes its own decision on the

matter. The Park District will notify you before 8:15 am if Preschool classes have been cancelled.



Birthdays—The birthday child may (not required) choose to bring a special birthday snack to share with his/her classmates. Please check with the teacher regarding special birthday treats to be passed out.

Field Trips

There may be field trips to various places for the children to gain experience outside the classroom. Transportation will be provided from school. Parents are also welcome to accompany their child. Trips may have a fee involved. Field trips are optional, however, if

your child does not attend the field trip there will be no class and no credit given for the days missed. If for any reason your child is unable to attend on the day of the trip, please call the office at 630-323-2626.



Registration Information

All registration will be taken at the Community Center Recreation Office located at 315 Chicago Avenue, Clarendon Hills. Phone #630- 323-2626. NO refunds will be issued after the second week. Children who will be three by September 1, 2015 are eligible for the three-year-old program, which meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Children who will be four by September 1, 2015 will be eligible for the four-year-old program, which meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Children not meeting the age requirements will be placed on a waitlist. **Fall, 2015 Registration is currently being accepted at the Park District Office.**

Terrific Threes: max. 16

DAYS: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
TIME: 8:45 am—11:15 am

Fantastic Fours: Pre-K max. 18

DAYS: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
TIME: 12:30 pm—3:00 pm

LOCATION: Community Center

Full Year: September 9—May 15, 2016

Fees: \$1600 (N/R \$1700) - Full Year

*\$100 non-refundable deposit required

Fall Session: September 9—December 18

Winter/Spring: January 4—May 13, 2016

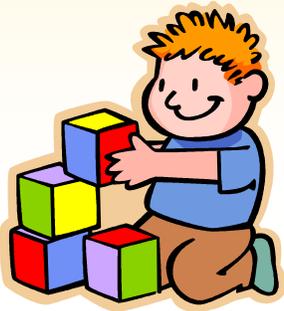


Look at me, look at me,
look at me now.
It is fun to have fun,
but you have to know how.



—Dr. Seuss

"A growing body of research has emerged recently affirming that children learn most effectively through a concrete, play-oriented approach to early childhood education," the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) notes. "Children's play is a primary vehicle for and indicator of their mental growth. Play enables children to progress along the developmental sequence from the sensorimotor intelligence of infancy to preparational thought in the preschool years to the concrete operational thinking exhibited by primary children. In addition to its role in cognitive development, play also serves important functions in children's physical, emotional, and social development. Therefore, child-initiated, child-directed, teacher-supported play is an essential component of developmentally appropriate practice."



Just Playing ... Author Unknown

When I'm building in the block room,
Please don't say I'm "Just playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play,
About balance, I may be an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up,
Setting the table, caring for the babies,
Don't get the idea I'm "Just Playing."
I may be a mother or a father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint,
Or standing at an easel, or molding and shaping clay,
Please don't let me hear you say, "He is Just Playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I just might be a teacher someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some
"playing" at my school,
Please don't feel the time is wasted in "play."
For you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate.
I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,
Please don't think that because I enjoy it,
it is "Just Play."
I'm learning to follow directions and see the differences.
I may be a cook someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run,
and move my body,
Please don't say I'm "Just Playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning how my body works.
I may be a doctor, nurse, or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today,
And I say, "I just played."
Please don't misunderstand me.
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work.
I'm preparing for tomorrow.
Today, I am a child and my work is play.

-Unknown Author-