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SR. Preschool

The Four Year Old Child

Natural Play

Reggio Inspired Play Room

The Environment is the third teacher.

Spring Roots Early Learning & Child Care Center believes that the key to early learning is the play environment. The elements of nature used as play materials have all the benefits of growing healthy children. It is our vision to take on a “less is more” approach with all “natural” equipment and to provide natural open-ended play materials.

During the early years including pre-birth to six years of age children are rapidly acquiring root skills in each domain of development; emotional and social development, communication and language, cognitive problem solving and physical development. These are all supported in Natural Play.

When Children play using rocks, logs, sticks, water, sand, shells, and any materials found in nature they will gain many benefits toward early learning in; math, physical science, dramatic and symbolic play, language and literacy, art, sensory exploration, movement and music, gross and fine motor development. When they play with toys that don't limit the child's ability to interact and create spontaneously through the free experience of his or her own emotional process: The imagination!

The role of the educator is to facilitate support for the children by following their lead. They allow children to play without interruption; they will observe, document, add and assist the children in play. Through their observations the programming will occur, projects will take place that can last days, weeks, or months.

The Daily Routine

We provide service in four age groups in our centre for children aged 6 months to 5 years of age. Each age group falls into its own category and follows a general routine.

The components of the programs all follow similar schedules which include; the structure of the day, activities and experiences that are planned and offered to the children, Natural physical environment, toys and materials, learning areas, health safety and warm interactions.

In each group there are times for; Indoor and Outdoor Play, Physical needs, Toileting Routines, Nutrition Breaks, Quiet Rest Periods, Small Group and Large Group Experiences.

The focus of care **with all age groups** will be to provide an inclusive program that respects each child's individual abilities needs and strengths. The educator will provide a language rich environment that encourages communication through positive interactions. The child will be given opportunities to explore, experiment and problem solve, which will foster a feeling of competence.

They will feel valued and cared for through positive interactions with each other and adults, which will develop their self esteem. They will gain a sense of autonomy as they will have flexibility and choice.

They will be given opportunities to learn through their interactions with each other and through their all natural environment.

Programming is inclusive, anti bias and non racial and follows a documentation process which comes from the children's interests. Within each age group, discussions with children about their choices and experiences will create a collaborative emergent program plan, which will be developed, followed and changed as learning happens naturally. Programming will emerge week to week and is not planned too far in advance as children's thoughts and ideas will come and go change often or through discussions alterations may happen. Teachers are able to document, collaborate, discuss and decide how to assist children's development by offering alternatives or adding to the activities or projects. Visual documentation will help parents, children and teacher. The natural environment will provide children with a variety of rich, interesting materials that they can explore and use their individual imagination!

SR. Preschool One and Two

Making sense of our natural world

Mastering Self Help Skills

These children will be given opportunities to work on projects for a longer period of time they may practice working on dramatic plays, planning outings, and learning from special guests. Children have fun learning through a variety of natural and manmade crafting materials, playing active games, participating in group time, etc. Days are filled with many different activities based on the interests of the children. Special events such as the Christmas Concert and Graduation are highlights for most children. Children will have opportunity to grow and develop skills in many areas needed for kindergarten.

The Educator/Child ratio will be maintained throughout the day:

- Room One 1:10 4/5 years old
- Room Two 1:10 4/5 years old

Personal Belongings:

All items need to be labelled.

- Am and Pm Snack [**Peanut and nut free** in a reusable container]
- blanket
- any personal comfort item
- PICTURE OF SELF AND FAMILY
- complete change of clothes-shirt-socks-top/bottom {underwear}
- indoor shoes/ outdoor
- **summer**-sunscreen/ hat/ sunglasses **winter**- hat/mittens/boots /snow pants
- medication* as needed or prescribed [forms will need to be filled out]
- Occasionally- any items that will be part of the program and learning process which will be sent home by letters or e-mail.