



# Classroom Descriptions



## Infants-Toddlers / 6 Weeks to 24 months

The **"Bumblebees"** classroom is designed for children aged 6 weeks through 1 year. The primary focus is on positive and loving care in a safe environment with an emphasis in sensory experiences such as finger painting, shaving cream play, and snacks. We also work on trust, sitting, standing, walking and sitting at a table when the child is ready. The children have the opportunity to interact with children their own age and make choices during play. There is outside time as well on a shaded age-appropriate playground. We make every effort to follow each child's individual schedule, and we do serve lunch and provide nap time.

The **"Hedgehogs"** classroom is designed for children aged 1-2 years old. It is designed to build on the foundation started in the Bumblebees. We will work on sitting at the tables, sharing, listening, playing with others, and staying together for "circle time" and music time designed to promote further understanding of language and language development. There will be many opportunities for sensory exploration and fine motor development through crafts. The children will also have the opportunity to interact with children their own age and make choices during play. There is outside time as well on a shaded age-appropriate playground. We do serve lunch (and a snack) at the tables and work on using utensils and provide nap time on age appropriate cots.

## 2 Year Olds

The **"Fireflies"** work on mastering basic skills. This includes gross motor, language, self feeding/using utensils, sharing, manners and potty training. Children will be provided many opportunities to explore with their senses, make choices, and practice fine motor skills. This is a time of much growth and change so we foster an environment that encourages respect and a love for learning. There is outside time as well on a shaded age-appropriate playground. Lunch is provided and served in the classroom. (We do not nap in this classroom.)

## 3 Year Olds

The **"Owls"** continue to work toward mastering skills that were introduced in the "Fireflies." This includes listening and following directions, language development, recognizing names, gross motor skills, and fine motor skills- including the use of scissors, counting, and music. The children will have many choices in creating play, experimenting, and exploration with senses. This classroom also focuses on the final stages of potty training. (Children must be fully potty trained to be promoted to the 4 year old classroom.) There is outside time as well on a shaded age-appropriate playground. Lunch is provided and served in the classroom.

## 4 Year Olds

The **"Butterflies"** focus on learning and promoting the physical skills necessary for fine motor development along with nurturing the pre-literacy skills necessary for reading and writing. Recognition of letters, numbers, basic shapes, life signs (i.e. exit, bathroom, crosswalk, 911, etc.) is encouraged along with creative play using science and art. A balance of structure for individual learning (including use of scissors, glue, paint, and writing instruments) and free play where choices can be made based on personal interests provide a healthy, enjoyable environment where learning is fun. We also actively encourage independence. The daily schedule incorporates individual and group activities along with time spent outside on a shaded age-appropriate playground. Lunch is provided and served in the classroom.

## 5 Year Olds / Pre-Kindergarten

The **"Stars"** work on the skills required for a successful entrance to kindergarten. We consciously endeavor to provide an environment that assists with a positive self-concept and love of learning. Academically, we will work on multi-step directions, following classroom rules, working independently, and developing constructive attitudes toward small and large group activities. We present and develop many concepts including left-right progression, sorting, sequencing, classifying, number sets, spatial relationships, phonetic reading skills, letter recognition both in and out of sequence, writing skills, language enrichment, visual discrimination, and manual dexterity. Socially, we will encourage continued development of sharing, turn taking, respecting others and establishing friendships. Dramatic play, show-n-tell, and rewards for good behaviors are some of the tools used to enrich children's interactions. There is outside time as well on a shaded age-appropriate playground. Lunch is provided and served in the classroom.