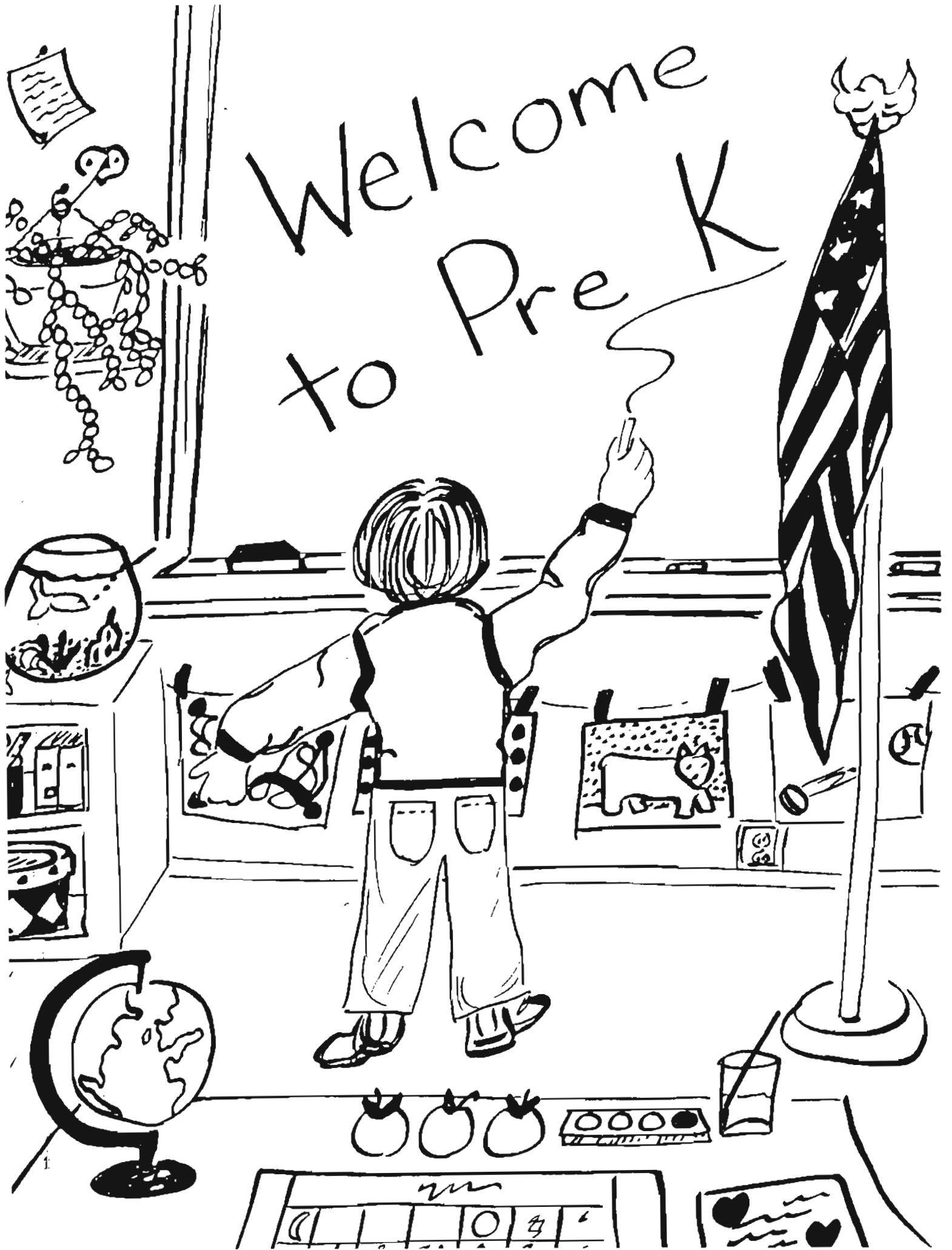


Welcome
to Pre K



**CLIFFSIDE PARK PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
2011-2012**

ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND SUPPORT STAFF

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Michael J. Romagnino**

**PRINCIPAL
Janet Merrill**

**PRE-K FACULTY
Mrs. Barbara Bracco
Ms. Andrea De Coons
Miss Lisa Elson
Miss Danielle Hompesch
Mrs. Joann Piccirillo
Miss Daniela Rutz**

**School Secretary
Mrs. Donna Murtagh
201-313-2340**

**School Nurse
Mrs. Margaret Keyser
201-313-2346**

CLIFFSIDE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011-2012

JULY
5 - Summer School Begins
29- Summer School Ends

AUGUST
1 - Summer Enrichment Begins
19- Summer Enrichment Ends
25 -Office Staff, Guidance and Educational Support Staff Return

| JULY '11 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| AUGUST '11 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

SEPTEMBER '11

| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

Total Days
Staff = 20
Students=19

1 -Staff Return
(7th and 9th Grade Orientations)
2- Labor Day Recess
5 -Labor Day
6 -Students Return (K-12)
8 -Pre-K Orientation
8 - Grade 7 Parent Orientation
9 -Pre K & Wrap Around begins
12 -Afterschool begins
(Schools 3,4,5,6)

PARENT VISITATION DATES
13- School 3
15 - Middle School
20 - School 4
22 - School 6
27 - School 5
Oct 6 - High School

6 - High School Parent Night
10-Columbus Day
18 -Half Day Session/Staff In-Service
25 - HS Scary Story Night
27 - HS 8th Grade Orientation & College Fair
31 -Elementary Halloween Parade

Total Days
Staff = 20
Students=20

| OCTOBER '11 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

NOVEMBER '11

| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

Total Days
Staff =17
Students=17

3- Open School Day
8 -Election Day
10, 11- NJEA Convention
17 -19 -HS Drama Presentation
23 -Half Day Session/No Afterschool Program
24,25 -Thanksgiving Recess
29, 30 -Elementary Parent Conferences (Half Day Session)

1 -Elem Parent Conferences (Half Day Session)
7 - HS Winter Concert
15 - Fall Sports Dinner
23 - Half Day Session/Holiday Recess Begins/No Afterschool
26-30 - Holiday Recess

Total Days
Staff = 17
Students=17

| DECEMBER '11 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

JANUARY '12

| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Total Days
Staff = 20
Students=20

2 -New Year's Day Holiday
5 - HS Financial Aid Workshop
16 -M.L. King Jr. Day
18 - HS Fairy Tale Night
24-Half Day Session/Staff In-Service

14- Half Day Session/Staff In-Service
16 - HS College Information Night
20-21 President's Weekend

Total Days
Staff = 19
Students=19

| FEBRUARY '12 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |

MARCH '12

| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Total Days
Staff =22
Students=22

13-Half Day Session/Staff In-Service
21 - HS Fashion Show
29 -31- HS Spring Musical

5-Half Day Session for all staff and students/No Afterschool
6 -Good Friday
9-13 Spring Recess
27 - Middle School Spring Play

Total Days
Staff = 15
Students=15

| APRIL '12 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

MAY '12

| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Total Days
Staff = 22
Students=22

4 - HS Career Fair
8- Half Day Session/Staff In-Service
9 - HS National Honor Society
15 - Middle School Honor Society
16 - HS Spring Concert
17 -Grades 5 & 6 - Band Concert
24 -Grade 6 Choral Concert
28 -Memorial Day
31 - HS Prom

5 - Winter/Spring Sports Dinner
6 - HS Academic Awards
7 - Grade 8 Dinner Dance
11- Sch 4 Grade 6 Moving Up
12 -Sch 3 Grade 6 Moving Up
13 - Sch 6 Grade 6 Moving Up
14 - Sch 5 Grade 6 Moving Up
15 - Last Day for Afterschool
18-Tentative Last Day for Students and Staff

Total Days
Staff = 12
Students =12
Adopted: APRIL 20, 2011

| JUNE '12 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

LEGEND

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS;
STAFF IN-SERVICE
HALF-DAY SESSION FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS
HALF-DAY SESSION FOR STUDENTS;
STAFF IN-SERVICE
DAYS OF INTEREST

The Calendar allows for three (3) emergency closing days. Should circumstances require, the calendar may be extended beyond the scheduled closing date. President's weekend and spring recess periods are tentative based on the number of emergency closings. This calendar is subject to change.

INTRODUCTION

Parents are the most important adults in the lives of their children. They are their children's first and most enduring teachers. Parents are teachers every time they interact with their children. Children need the attention, encouragement and emotional support of their parents to provide motivation to learn. Parenthood has many challenges but the rewards are great. The transition from home to school is eased by parents' positive attitudes toward education and their general support of the school.

Since the family and the school are the principal environments in which young children develop, the link between the two is very important. It is impossible to separate the way a child lives from the way he or she learns. The pooling of information by teachers and parents supports the optimum development of the child. Parents and schools have to capitalize on each other's knowledge and abilities. It takes this partnership of home and school to enable children to meet academic challenges and to achieve success. Mutual trust and respect are especially important with the complexity of today's world.

Research indicates that parental involvement in their children's education increases students' performance. This orientation booklet is one way to foster better home-school communication and enlist your support. We feel that you want to know what your children are learning and we respect that interest. In this booklet we have presented information about school procedures, programs and professional staff. In addition, the material about early childhood education and child development should give you a better understanding of our curriculum and enable you to support and enrich your children at home. We also tried to show you that opportunities for your children to learn are everywhere and how you can take advantage of these occurrences.

You can become more involved in your children's education by joining in school and PTO activities, becoming resource people, attending Board of Education meetings and voting on the school budget. The more involved you become in the school, the more effective the school will be in educating your children.

BASIC PRE-KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

Attendance

Good attendance is important for your child's academic growth and the development of a sense of responsibility. If your child is absent, please contact the school and also send a note to the teacher when he or she returns explaining the reason for absence.

Punctuality

We urge you to be punctual in bringing and picking up your child. This emphasizes the importance of school and establishes the habit of punctuality.

Snacks

Children should bring nutritious snacks and lunch daily. Some suggested snacks are:

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------|
| Fresh fruits | Raw vegetables | Raisins |
| Cheese | Dried fruit | Crackers |
| Plain yogurt | Breadsticks | Pretzels |

Money

Any money that your child brings to school should be placed in a sealed envelope plainly marked with your child's name and the teacher's name. Also indicate what the money is for (ex. trip, book club, fundraiser, etc.). Do not include other notes to the teacher in this envelope.

Clothing

Clothing should be comfortable and easy to manage. All outer clothing must be labeled with your child's full name. This includes sweaters, boots, hats, scarves, etc. Boots should be large enough to put on easily. Plastic bags worn over shoes make boots easier to put on.

Notices

Kindly read school notices carefully and promptly return those requiring a signature. We cannot stress this enough.

Parties and Birthdays

You will be notified about annual parties (Halloween, Holidays, etc.) by your child's teacher. On your child's birthday, you may send in a special treat. No hats or goody bags please. We ask that you do not send party invitations to school for distribution unless the whole class is invited.

Pre-Kindergarten Orientation

An orientation for Pre-K parents will be held in the prior to the start of school to discuss all aspects of the Pre-K curriculum. Parents will be notified of the date and time of the meeting.

Back To School Night

Early in the school year you will be invited to visit your child's classroom in the evening. At that time the teacher will acquaint you with the general plans for the year's work. You will have the opportunity to look around the classroom and see the various activity centers and materials.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Sleep

Please make sure your child gets enough sleep each night (10-12 hours). A suggested bedtime of 7:30 will help your child get sufficient rest to satisfy the developmental needs for his/her age. It is advisable to develop a consistent bedtime schedule prior to the beginning of school.

Hygiene

Coming to school well-groomed with face and hands clean, hair combed, teeth brushed and fresh clothes is the beginning of a good routine.

Meals

Parents should provide enough time for the child to have a good breakfast or lunch, without rushing prior to the school day.

Illness

Exercise care in sending your child to school if he/she had a temperature or was ill the night before. Do not send your child to school if he/she has a sore throat, temperature or does not feel well. Infections spread easily and to protect your own child and others, we feel it is wiser to be absent one or two days than to risk more serious illness. **If your child has had a temperature, he/she should be fever free 24 hours before returning to school.** If he or she does not feel well before school in the morning or afternoon, do not send him/her to school to be diagnosed by the school nurse.

Head Lice

This problem has become nationwide in recent years. Please check your child's hair at least once a week. Particularly look for smaller than dandruff like substances (eggs) behind the ears and the nape of the neck. These eggs stick to the hair shaft. Special head lice preparations can be obtained from your pharmacist or ordered through your doctor. **Please notify the school nurse if your child has been infected so that the rest of the class can be checked and the situation controlled.**

Medication

Because of the dangerous results from the improper use of medicine or drugs, medication such as nasal sprays, pills, etc. should not be brought to school unless directed by the family doctor. Doctor's instructions must be in writing, and the medication brought to the school nurse. If your child is on any medicine at home, please let the teacher know. It is against the state laws for nurses to prescribe treatment or administer medication internally without a doctor's written order. Therefore, no student will be given medication such as aspirin, Tylenol, etc. in school.

HIGH/SCOPE PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The High/Scope Early Childhood Curriculum is a complete research based system of education for the preschool. The curriculum has a set of teaching practices for adults, content areas for children, assessment tools to measure teaching behaviors and children's progress and a training model to help adults use the curriculum to support children's development.

The curriculum is based on the belief that children learn best through "active learning," direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events, and ideas. Children are encouraged to "construct" their own knowledge by pursuing their personal interests and goals, guided by trained adults who understand the important learning areas for children in the preschool years. Active learning is central to all activities in the program, whether planned by adults or initiated by children.

The space and materials in a High/Scope setting are carefully selected and arranged to promote active learning. The center is divided into "interest areas" organized around specific kinds of play, for example, block area, house area, small toy area, book area, sand and water area, art area.

High/Scope teachers give children a sense of control over the events of the day by planning a consistent daily routine that enables children to anticipate what happens next. A central element of the preschool daily routine is the "plan-do-review sequence"; other key elements are small- and large-group times, greeting time, and outside time.

In a High/Scope setting, children explore, ask and answer questions, solve problems, and interact with classmates and adults as they pursue their choices and plans. During this process they engage in teacher- and child-initiated learning activities in **10 child developmental content areas**. Within each content area are "**key experiences**" that foster developmentally important skills and abilities. There are 58 key experiences for the preschool years and accompanying teaching strategies.

A PARENTS GUIDE TO THE CLIFFSIDE PARK PRE-K CLASSROOM

It is important that the child is able to choose from many activities and move from one activity to another as he or she wishes. We want the child to learn in ways that are natural to him/her. It is important that the daily schedule gives one large block of time to activities in learning centers.

We want the child to have many firsthand experiences. It is important that equipment and supplies are placed where the child can reach and return them without adult help.

We want the child to become independent. It is important that supplies are organized and returned to their proper place after being used. We want the child to know order.

HOUSEKEEPING AREA

Because the child's family and home are the biggest part of his/her world, he or she spends much of his time imitating the things he sees there. He tries on the life of people he knows...their work...their feelings...their words. Through this acting out (dramatic play), the child is able to bring together the things he is learning and feeling about his world and himself. Dramatic play helps him come to a better understanding of others and clearer view of what he can do and where he fits in.

Earliest themes for play emerge from familiar happenings in the family. They involve care and nurture of babies and young children (washing, feeding, dressing, bedtime, scolding and cuddling), and household routines and tasks (cleaning, doing laundry, preparing meals). Gradually, themes expand to encompass related neighborhood activities, such as food shopping or going to the post office. Young children also become fascinated by the works that people do outside the home, especially the more visible jobs, such as construction, sanitation or fire fighting.

BLOCK BUILDING

Block building gives the child a chance to think, to plan, and to solve problems while he moves freely and works with his hands. Building with blocks helps the child to understand more about sizes and shapes. It helps him to learn what numbers really stand for. He works, shares and talks with other children as he plays. His language grows along with his understanding of people.

THE ART AREA

The colorful, tactile quality of art materials stimulates Pre-Kindergartners to explore and manipulate paint, clay, crayons and other items. Four year olds enjoy being able to control art media through their own movements. When they discover lines and forms they have created, they may begin to name them. These sometimes "scribble symbols" are important for young children engaged in the creative process. Specific "products," the children's work, are not as important as the process of creating them.

MANIPULATIVES

Manipulative materials are small materials with which children build, play or construct. They are most often used at a table and are sometimes called "table toys." They may also be

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

A young child going to school for the first time is faced with two frightening elements: one is separation from his or her parents and the other is unfamiliarity. In order to ease the transition from home to school it is important for you as a parent to encourage your child to become more independent. You can do this by building his or her own self-esteem. When he or she is confident in his or her own abilities, he or she will be less fearful of new situations.

A. PARENTS AS THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS

1. *Developing a healthy school "attitude"*
 - a. School is a happy place - to learn, grow, make new friends
2. *Separation anxiety - sometime it's worse for parents*
 - a. Keep a positive attitude
 - b. Four and five year olds are keenly observant
 - c. Do not linger
 - d. Keep your child's trust - tell the truth
 - e. Reassure him/her of your return at dismissal time
 - f. Tears of separation do not last long

B. BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM: SOME TIPS

1. *Give your child attention*
 - a. Read to him or her
 - b. Talk with him or her
 - c. Listen to him or her
2. *Praise your child*
 - a. For things well done
 - b. For things done not so well
 - c. We learn by our mistakes, too
3. *Promote good health and safety habits*
 - a. Young children take pride in their appearance and their ability to care for themselves
4. *Provide materials for cutting, coloring, and building*
 - a. Familiarity encourages creativity
 - b. Praise his/her creations
 - c. Limit passive toys
 - d. Monitor T.V. time
5. *Plan family activities or "trips"*
 - a. Take a "discovery" walk
 - b. Be observant of surroundings and landmarks
 - c. Point out shapes, sizes, colors
 - d. Notice changes in scenery or environment

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER

We hope that your child will find our school a warm and friendly place. Our pre-kindergarten program attempts to smooth the way from home to school by providing your child with a positive start so that future learning activities will be successful. To help your child have a happy and productive beginning year, we offer a few suggestions:

1. It is natural for children to have fears about school. Discuss these fears in a positive, loving way to reassure your child.
2. Please discuss with us any concerns or questions you have regarding your child.
3. Teach your child to go to the lavatory independently and to remember to flush and wash hands when finished.
4. Teach your child how to use tissues and supply him/her with them when necessary. Be sure your child knows to turn and cover his/her mouth when he sneezes or coughs.
5. We encourage the children to do things on their own according to their abilities. Please take time to practice with your child getting clothes, coats, and shoes on and off and zipping, buttoning, and snapping clothing.
6. Clothing should be easy to manage. We have found the following difficult for pre-kindergarten children:
 - a. Coats with small buttons or loops
 - b. Denim jackets with metal buttons
 - c. Suspenders and belts
 - d. Metal buttons on overalls
 - e. One piece outfits
 - f. Very tight pants, shoes or boots.
 - g. Girl's shoes with two straps to buckle
 - h. Small carry bags (it's hard to get everything in the bag)
7. If your child continually brings home part of his/her snack, consider sending less
8. Kindly peel, cut and wash snack items before sending them to school
9. Ask about your child's day and display his/her papers to help develop a positive self-image
10. Please send a complete change of clothes, including underpants and socks, in a plastic bag clearly marked with your child's name. To allow for growth, these clothes will be returned in January and ask you to send in a new set for the rest of the year.

We welcome all parents to be partners with us in an exciting and rewarding year.

SUGGESTED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A Boy, A Dog and A Frog, Mercer Mayer
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, Judith Viorst
Angelina Ballerina, Katherine Holabird
Angus and the Ducks, Marjorie Flack
Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing, Judi Barrett
Arthur Books, Marc Brown
Babushka: An Old Russian Folk Tale, Charles Mikolaycak
Beady Bear, Don Freeman
Bear Shadow, Frank Asch
Bedtime for Frances, Russell Hoban
Blueberries for Sal, Robert McCloskey
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Bill Martin, Jr.
Caps for Sale, Esphyr Slobodkina
Changes, Changes, Pat Hutchins
Chester's Way, Kevin Henkes
Chicken Soup with Rice, Maurice Sendak
Chrysothemum, Kevin Henkes
Clifford the Big Red Dog, Norman Bridwell
Corduroy, Don Freeman
Could Be Worse! James Stevenson
Curious George Books, H.Rey
Danny and the Dinosaur, Syd Hoff
Doctor DeSoto, William Steig
Eric Carle Books
Feelings, Aiki
Frederick, Leo Lionni
Friends, Helme Heine
Frog and Toad Books, Arnold Lobel
George and Martha Books, James Marshall
Georgie to the Rescue, Robert Bright
Green Eggs and Ham, Dr. Suess
Girls Can Be Anything, Norma Klein
Grimm's Fairy Tales
Growing Vegetable Soup, Lois Ehlert
Harold and the Purple Crayon, Corckett Johnson
Harry the Dirty Dog, Gene Zion
Horton Hatches the Egg; Hop on Pop, Dr. Suess
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Laura Numeroff
Ira Sleeps Over, Bernard Waber
Katy No Pocket, Emmy Payne
Keep Your Mouth Closed, Dear, Aiki
Leo the Late Bloomer, Robert Kraus
Leopold, the See-Through Crumbpicker, James Flora
Let's Be Friends Again, Hans Wilhelm
Little Toot, Hardie Gramatky
Love You Forever, Robert Munsch
Lyle Crocodile, Bernard Waber
Madeline's Rescue, Ludwig Bemelmans
Make Way for Ducklings, Robert McCloskey
Mary Wore Her Red Dress, Merle Peek
May I Bring a Friend? Beatrice deRegniers

Whose Child Is This?

"Whose child is this?" I asked one day,
Seeing a little one out at play.
"Mine," said the parent with a tender smile.
"Mine to keep a little while,
To bathe him and to comb his hair,
To tell him what he is to wear,
To prepare him that he may always be good
And each day do the things that he should."

"Whose child is this?" I asked again,
As the door opened and someone came in.
"Mine," said the teacher with the same tender smile.
"Mine, to keep just for a little while,
"To teach him how to be gentle and kind;
To train and direct his dear little mind;
To help him live by every rule
And get the best he can from school."

"Whose child is this?" I asked once more,
Just as the little one entered the door.
"Ours," said the parent and the teacher as they smiled.
And each took a hand of the little child.
"Ours to love and train together,
Ours this blessed task forever."