

Rainbow Room Information Packet

Email: rainbownbcc@gmail.com

Teacher Schedule: Lauren: 7:30-3:30
Abby: 8:30- 5:00
Joe: 10:00-6:00

Your child will need the following items labeled with their name:

- One extra set of weather appropriate clothing
- A blanket and small pillow with a pillow case
- Framed family photo
- A 2" three ring binder
- A pack of paper for artwork and drawing
- Tube of children's toothpaste with fluoride

For the summer only:

- A swimsuit
- A towel
- A pair of water shoes
- A water bottle
- Sunscreen with a medical release form (ask a teacher for the form)

**Each Rainbow will have a black bag labeled with their name on their hook. This bag is used for storing and transporting nap items and home toys. You can take this bag on Fridays when you take your child's nap items home to wash them. Please RETURN the bag on Monday.

Daily Schedule: (Playground times change quarterly. We will go to the Rumpus Room if inclement weather.)

7:30-9:40 free choice play
8:00-8:40 morning snack
9:00-10:00/10:00-11:00 outside or free choice play
10:00/11:00 group time
11:45-12:30 lunch
12:30-1:00 bathroom and tooth brushing
1:00-3:00 nap
3:00-3:30 put away cots and afternoon snack
3:40-4:40/4:40-5:40 outside or free choice play
5:45 clean up and closing
6:00 center closes

Separation and Drop off

Separation can be a tricky time for children and parents. The best and easiest way to handle this situation is to establish a routine. Try to drop them off and say goodbye in the same way every day. For example: engage in an activity together and then give them a kiss or hug goodbye. This will provide predictability to your child and make it easier for him/her to say goodbye. Remember that every child and parent is different, so it may take some time to find the routine that is best for you and your child.

Here are some more tips on separation that we have found to be successful in the past:

- Do what you say. If you tell your child you will stay for five minutes, then stay for five minutes. If you tell them you are leaving right now, then do just that. Allowing them to negotiate this with you will give them the incorrect idea that you will be staying with them all day.
- If your child seems to have a particularly difficult time separating, try to make your drop offs as brief as possible. Again, by staying for a long time, your child can easily get the idea that you will not be leaving.
- Avoid dropping off during transitions. We have seen that is often much harder for the child to say goodbye when the group is moving to a new activity. We have attached a copy of our classroom schedule to the front of this packet, please keep it in mind when bringing your child to school.

Home Toys

Children are welcome to bring toys from home every Monday. We have found that by limiting home toys to just one day, children spend more time exploring the materials in the classroom. Books and puzzles are the exception to this rule. Children are allowed to bring a book OR puzzle in any day of the week. We ask that you limit books and puzzles to one at a time. Please make sure that any books or toys brought from home are labeled with their name.

Sharing

While the idea is encouraged, the philosophy of the Rainbow Room states that a home toy or book brought from home does not need to be shared. If a child does choose to share their personal item, then they must share with anyone interested in it. Because we respect children as individuals, we recognize that there are times, as well as items, that they may not want to share.

Non-Nappers

Non-Nappers is a program for children 4 and over who have outgrown their nap. Resting is a requirement for all children. If your child is a non-napper, he/she will rest quietly on his/her cot from 1-2 PM and then go to another room to do quiet activities from 2-3 PM. Children who fall asleep will not be awakened to go to non-nappers and will be allowed to sleep until 3 PM.

Field Trips

We try to plan field trips as often as possible. This is always an opportunity for parent participation. We will post a sign up sheet for parents to join us on our trips. Accompanying parents really make field trips possible. We could not do it as easily without you. Below are some guidelines for field trips that we ask you to follow:

- We try to have the vans parked directly in front of the building on the morning of the field trip with a sign telling you which van your child will ride in. Please secure your child's **LABELED** car seat in the proper van. We prefer the car seats face the front so that we can get to them easier.
- For your child's safety, please remember that children must be in a regular care seat until they are 40 pounds or four years old.

Parent Involvement

We strongly encourage parent and family involvement in the Rainbow Room. We welcome parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings....whoever! This can be an opportunity for you to share special areas of interest or talents. Reading books with small groups of children or helping with activities are great ways to get involved! If a member of your family would like to come in for an activity, let us know so we can plan accordingly.

Early Learning Content Standards

The Ohio Department of Education has issued a book of guidelines we are required to follow when planning activities for your child. These standards help us to make sure your child is learning everything they need to know before kindergarten. The Standard subjects include: Math, Science, English/Language Arts and Social Studies.

Potty Training

All children learn to use the potty at different rates. Sometimes when children start in the Rainbow room, they have not yet mastered the potty. In such cases, we get together with the parent(s) and come up with a plan that we will work on together to get the child using the potty. Before your child starts in the room they need to be familiar with the potty and in **pull-ups**. Pull-ups allow children to dress themselves and practice self help skills.

Activity Centers

Art: We often set up planned activities to give children an opportunity to explore materials in different ways. Open-ended art materials are always available for children to create and explore with.

Home Living/Dramatic Play: Dress-up and imaginative play happens here. We have a kitchen with pretend food, real dishes and containers made of glass, plastic and metal. This allows children an opportunity to use realistic materials in their imaginative play scenarios. Clothing, costumes and several accessories are always available in this area.

Book Space: Books are available to children at all times. We go to the library and check out fiction and non fiction books out monthly. This is a quiet area where children can think, read and relax.

Writing Table: Paper, journals, pencils, erasers, name writing cards, note cards and envelopes are rotated on the writing table. Our goal in this area is to give children the confidence with writing materials. If children experiment with these items without pressure, they will continue to be interested in learning with them for years to come. Our goal is not to have children writing the alphabet, but to build confidence and hand coordination for future writing skills.

Manipulative Area: This area provides interesting materials for children to learn how to manipulate small items with their hand muscles. Developing these muscles helps children practice and master self-help skills (dressing, tooth brushing, eating..) and helps with writing skills. The manipulative materials also provide experiences that build math skills such as counting, sorting and patterning.

Block Space: Blocks are a great source for creativity and learning. We provide wooden unit blocks and large, hollow wood blocks. Extension materials we have available to enhance this space may include plastic people and animals and vehicles.

Play dough Table: This space may have any number of substances including: flubber, play

dough of different varieties, or goop. We provide tools for cutting, rolling, shaping and pressing. Using these materials gives children a chance to manipulate their small muscles and feel a sense of accomplishment when they create something.

Sensory Table: We rotate the materials in the sensory table periodically to maintain children's interest and to give them an opportunity to explore differences in texture and other properties. Some of our sensory materials include: water, ice, snow, bubbles, shaving cream, sand, beans, rice and pasta. Using various tools for scooping, filling and dumping gives children the opportunity to problem solve and measure. Social interactions are also strongly encouraged in this area for there are often many children gathered around the table at one time.

Woodworking: Children are given the opportunity and responsibility to use real tools in this space. A variety of tools including but not limited to nails, hammers, screwdrivers, saws, wood and clamps will be offered depending on the offered activity. While working in this area children are required to wear shoes and safety goggles.

Science Space: Through observing and recording children's interests, we provide different materials and activities for the children to explore in the science space. We may learn about our bodies, weather, geography, physics or chemistry. We enhance our entire environment with living plants and other natural materials.

Cooking in the Classroom: The children will engage in a variety of cooking ideas throughout the year. Cooking combines math, science, sensory, literacy and group cooperation. Please look for sign up sheets posted on the parent board for ingredient donations.

More Information:

- Every Friday washable items (blankets, pillow cases, swimsuits and towels) will be sent home. Please wash them and return them and the black bag to your child's hallway hook Monday morning.
- Please check your child's mailbox and the parent information board daily for communication from the center and the teachers.
- Please make sure you provide the teachers with your email address. The teachers use email for reminders and general information. Please make sure to check your email every day.
- Teachers will also periodically post photos and sometimes videos on Picassa. These photos/videos may only be seen by individuals who receive the link via email. We will post photos/videos of field trips, visitors or sometimes just fun things happening in the room and send the link to your email. This allows you to feel involved in your child's day even while at work. If, for any reason, you do not want us to put photos or videos of your child

on Picassa, please let us know.

- There are clear boxes in the bathroom for your child's extra clothing. The clothing should be weather appropriate and need to include 1 shirt, 1 pair of pants/shorts, 1 pair of socks and underwear. If an outfit goes home, please bring another one as soon as possible.
- We do a lot of projects involving paint, glue and markers. While we do our best to use washable materials, sometimes clothes stain. Please dress your child in clothing appropriate for these activities.
- When dropping off or picking up your child, please check the location board in the hallway outside the office to see where our class is. We also have a sign on the classroom door that indicates where we are if we are not in our room.
- Conferences are held in October and April. Additional conferences can be scheduled as needed. Please feel free to call or approach us anytime.
- Our playground schedule changes quarterly. We share the playground with another preschool group. Changing times allows us to share with all of the different groups.
- There are journals in your mailboxes in the hallway. We will write in your journals about your child's time in the room once a week. Every day, we will write about the day's activities on the dry erase board in the hallway next to the parent mailboxes. We also do daily sheets that reflect your child's morning activities. You can find these sheets in your child's mailbox, please leave the laminated sheet in the mailbox.
- Snack is available in the morning from 8:00-8:40. This is just a small snack; not a complete meal. Please feed your child breakfast before you leave the house.