



Pre-K Prep Program Guide

Our Philosophy

At Little Bee Learning Studio, we view each child as an individual. We believe that children learn best when given freedom to explore their own interests and curiosities in a supportive and enriching environment. Our studio provides a space for children to engage with their peers and play with a variety of different materials, which are thoughtfully chosen according to their developmental abilities and interests, as well as their health and safety. We prioritize play as an exploratory practice that builds the foundation for future academic learning.

The Little Bee Environment

On a typical day in our drop-off classes, a small group of children might be working cooperatively to bake pretend cookies in the kitchen while another group explores sensory play and refines fine motor skills using kitchen tools in our sensory bin.

Open-ended manipulative materials including blocks, magnets, and Legos allow children to use their imagination and conceptualize their thoughts into a play scenario. A child who has seen a boat while at the pier may wish to reconstruct that scene using these materials; our teachers carefully observe and scaffold these child-led play scenarios. Instructors also employ techniques such as asking open-ended questions that provide the children with opportunities to practice using language and reflective thought.

Closed-ended materials such as puzzles, shape sorters, and stacking toys provide a predictable and clear outcome, which fosters a sense of pride and accomplishment in children. Children use their cognitive skills to recognize patterns, plan, and self-correct when engaging in these types of activities. While our teachers may offer assistance and suggestions, we value letting the child guide themselves towards the solution.

Our Little Bee book corner is a welcoming and cozy area that encourages positive and happy associations with reading, whether independently or with a group. We offer a wide range of

genres that are thoughtfully selected to stimulate an interest in learning and creativity. Whether your child chooses to read the latest adventures of their favorite fictional characters, or learn all about undersea life, our selections will assist in growing their understanding of life's emotions and events.

Little Bee supports creative expression through art, music, and movement activities. These activities help children explore their creativity and develop their own style and sense of self. During classes we provide art materials such as playdoh, paint, stickers, glue and more. As young children enjoy and benefit from the experience of working with art materials, many of our art activities are process based (and messy). Process based art focuses on the way children use the materials, as opposed to the end product created. Teachers may use language such as, "How does the paint feel?" or observing, "You are using so many colors," which stimulates children's perceptive senses and show that we value their efforts.

To support toddlers' natural inclination to move their bodies, we incorporate songs and movement in our routine. Singing songs together gives the children a sense of community with their peers and teachers. Children learn their classmates' names and welcome each other during the, "Hello Song," and they practice taking turns while singing the, "Jumping Song." Using instruments like xylophones, bells, and shakers, children make their own music and create a variety of sounds. Joining in with the group gives children the excitement to participate and confidence to contribute their own ideas.

We believe learning through play is the foundation for future social, emotional, and academic success. We provide the guidance, materials, and environment to foster this growth, and work to ensure that children feel happy and secure while exploring with us.

Social Emotional Learning

Separation Policy

Little Bee Learning Studio follows gentle separation practices. We follow each child on an individual basis and work with families to make the transition as comfortable as possible. In order to feel successful in class, children must feel secure within the environment after saying good-bye to their caregiver. Teachers will use careful discretion as to the appropriate time for a caregiver to return if a child experiences difficulty with separation.

Discipline Policy

At Little Bee Learning Studio, we strive for happy and productive classes. We recognize that toddlers have big feelings, and are still developing impulse control while discovering and testing limits. These behaviors can often be treated as teachable moments, and teachers will provide appropriate boundaries and limits to keep all children safe. We aim to support the social-emotional development of each child by addressing their emotions during times of conflict and modeling appropriate language, as opposed to punishing them.

We do not give time-outs to children. If a child does need to be separated from the group a teacher will stay with them to provide necessary support.

Behavior Policy

Occasional hitting, pushing, biting, and grabbing are all age appropriate behaviors for toddlers. We help children learn to self-regulate and use language to communicate their feelings more appropriately. Our small class size and child-to-teacher ratio allows for personalized attention, so that we can model appropriate language and allow children to practice using it. Reoccurring negative behaviors are the child's way of communicating to us, so we observe and analyze the behaviors in order to provide the best support for the child and work towards prosocial behaviors.

It is important for caregivers to work with our teachers as a team. We will communicate openly with families to ensure the child is getting consistent support in managing behaviors. If a child's negative behaviors become excessive we will meet with the family to create a plan, in which we can all help the child work toward more prosocial behaviors. Behaviors that result in mild injuries such as biting, scratching, hitting, etc. will be disclosed to both families of the children involved with anonymity.

We aim to be inclusive to children of all backgrounds and needs provided the child can function successfully with appropriate supports in our environment.

Health and Safety

Sick Policy

In order to limit the spread of illness please do not bring your child to class if they are exhibiting the following symptoms:

- Fever within the past 24 hours
- Diarrhea or vomiting within the past 24 hours
- Undiagnosed rash or skin irritation
- Contagious illness (regardless of whether or not there is a fever)
- If the child's symptoms inhibit them from functioning independently

If any of these symptoms arise during the class time, the child's caregiver will be called to pick them up immediately.

Allergy Policy

All caregivers MUST notify us of any allergies a child has before beginning a class series.

- We are a nut sensitive facility. Please do not bring any items with peanuts, peanut butter, granola bars with nuts, etc.
- We are also an allergy sensitive facility and will work with each family on a case by case basis.
- If your child has an EpiPen you must provide a signed formal note stating that our teachers have permission to use the EpiPen should a situation arise.
- Always send an EpiPen with your child to class.

Food Preparation Policy:

Fruit and snacks provided by our facility adhere to common choking hazard guidelines and are prepared appropriately. Listed below are foods that can be a choking hazard for children under 4 years old.

- Uncut grapes
- Hot dogs
- Chunks of meat or cheese
- Popcorn
- Raw carrots

For children attending the 10:40-12:40pm classes who will be eating lunch, we ask that families do not send their child with any food items listed above unless properly prepared. Should a child be sent to class with any of these items they will not be given to the child to eat.

Dismissal Policy

At the end of class, we will only send children home with their primary caregivers or individuals that have been approved by the primary caregivers. Caregivers must inform us prior to class of any person who will pick-up their child. If we have not been notified of an individual coming to pick-up a child, we will not release them until we have spoken with the primary caregiver and given explicit permission.

Missed Class Make-Up Policy

Make-up classes are not guaranteed, but will be accommodated to the best of our ability. Little Bee Learning Studio will work with each family to provide make-ups based on our availability and schedule. There are no refunds for missed classes unless the class is cancelled by Little Bee Learning Studio.

In the event of inclement weather Little Bee Learning Studio will alert families of any cancellations via e-mail and provide a make-up class date.