



10 Week Preschool



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Introduction

Play & Dance is a new program offered by DansConnection School of Performing Arts. Our program offers a combination of dance, music, crafts, centers and preschool activities. Each class has a qualified teachers and assistants. There are no required duty days & no fundraising expectations.

Daily Routine

May include, Free Play, Matt time, songs, stories, finger plays, calendar, weather and literacy awareness, Gym / Dance Class, skill development, gross motor activities, songs, basic dance technique & creative movement, Centers & Crafts, Snack Time, Show & Tell, Music, Goodbye Circle

On occasion, variations will be made due to special events

Philosophy

We believe in a preschool program that allows each child to develop all facets of their person. We also believe all children deserve a program that encourages individuality. We recognize no two children are alike and we take pride in appreciating the things that make us unique.

An integral part of our program is play. Play allows children valuable learning opportunities. Learning through play should encourage and support the whole child. This can be done by remembering the acronym S.P.I.C.E.

S Is for the Social Development of the child. Preschool is often the first opportunity children have to interact with their peers in a group setting. The acquisitions of social and problem solving skill begins here. These important life skills are encouraged by providing opportunities to socialize at the many centers in our preschool room.

P Is for Physical. It is important to provide children with room to move and develop their gross motor skills. We meet this need by providing daily dance and gym time.

I Is for Intellectual. Introduction to literacy is an important part of our program. By providing a daily circle time with stories, books, songs and finger plays and by providing a changing discovery or science centre, we are meeting the intellectual needs of the child and fostering a love for books and learning.

C Is for Creativity. It is important for children to have an opportunity to express their creativity. We provide many art mediums for children to explore with. Remember it is the process of art rather than the outcome.

E Is for Emotional. Encouraging a healthy self esteem is also one of the goals of our program. It is important for the emotional needs of children to be met. We provide a safe, clean and non judgmental environment for children to grow and learn in.

Program

Children must be at least 3 years of age, and potty trained, to attend our program.

School Hours

Morning classes 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Afternoon classes 12:15 pm – 2:45 pm

School Year

Our program runs in 10 week sessions throughout the year.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

Prior to class, teachers are busy getting the classroom ready. We ask that you arrive no more than 5 minutes before the start of class. Please pick up your child on time.

Registration Process

For children already attending and who will be returning the next session there is a pre-registration time, Parents/Guardians will be notified of the date. After that allotted time, registration will be opened to the public

Tuition and Fees

Tuition will be:
\$135/installment

Tuition payment can be paid by automatic debit of your account or total paid up front for entire session. No refunds or allowance will be made for sickness, holidays or any other reason.

Clothing

Play clothes are essential to preschool. Please dress your child in comfortable clothes to play, paint, dance and explore in. Students will not be changed into dancewear. Children will wear socks for dance portion. While we encourage the use of paint and water shirts, sometimes children do get dirty! Please send an extra set of clothing as spills happen & all students are required to have indoor shoes. All articles must be labeled with your child's name.

Toileting

Your child must be toilet trained to attend our program, no exceptions. You will be contacted if your child has a BM accident. Because independent use of the bathroom is encouraged, we ask that you ensure your child wears clothing that is easy for them to get in and out of. A few minutes at home practicing with buttons, zippers and snaps is helpful.

Snack

Eating is an important social activity. Please provide a peanut free healthy snack. Some examples are apple or orange slices, gold fish crackers, crackers and cheese, pretzels, and/or water. While children will be encouraged to eat their snack, they will not be forced to eat if they choose not to.

Birthdays

Birthdays are an important part of preschool life. If you choose to bring in a snack, please notify the teacher prior to that day.

Preparing for school

Some children do experience anxiety. We understand it can be hard for both parent and child to say good bye. It is our experience that a quick good bye at the door, leaving the trained staff to handle the situation, is best. Books such as Franklin Goes to School by Paulette Bourgeois or The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn can help. Consistent attendance, being on time both at the beginning and end of the day, and a positive attitude, can only help to ease anxiety.

Guidance and Goals

We view Child Guidance as a positive approach to supporting growth and development in children.

Self esteem is an important part of who we are as individuals. For positive self esteem, children need to be

comfortable with who they are, feel empowered, and develop a healthy sense of self: a sense that they are worthy of being.

We aim to provide an environment where each child feels supported and safe. It is in this environment where we guide children's behavior using positive reinforcement and positive communication techniques. We are aware that children are unique individuals who react to feelings and stressors in different ways. It is our job to recognize this and encourage; exploration of feelings; ways to problem solve; and to continue to develop a healthy sense of self. When a child feels supported, safe and has developed a sense of self, they are more apt to try new things and feel comfortable exploring new ideas and places.

If we have any concerns regarding your child's development or behavior we will certainly notify you so we can explore strategies and be consistent between preschool and home. We want all children to have a successful preschool experience. If a behavior becomes unmanageable, or a safety risk for other children or staff, parents will be contacted to take their child home. If these steps have been exhausted, the child will be asked to leave the program

Communication

We value spending time and having real conversations with children. Talking with the child, rather than at the child, allows for opportunity to get to know them.

We state our expectations in specific ways and use

positive statements to support them. Rather than saying the negative 'stop running' we state the positive 'use your walking feet'

We use active listening. Active listening is when we listen and respond to both what is being said and how. We need to be in tune with children and grasp their feelings and intent. This is a useful technique for helping children to learn to problem solve. 'It sure sounds like you are feeling frustrated. I wonder how we can work this out?' would be appropriate to say.

Positive Reinforcement

Our aim is to foster a sense of success in children. Children need to be encouraged for their efforts, rather than the product. Little Sally has been building in the block centre for a long time. Too often we hear the words 'good girl' or 'good job'. These words do not recognize the effort Sally has put forth. Our focus is on positive reinforcement: 'Wow Sally, you have been building a long time. Can you tell me what you have been busy building?' With this statement, Sally feels her efforts have been acknowledged, which is important in building self esteem.

Recognizing Feelings

We recognize children experience an array of emotions; anger, happiness, sadness, frustration, fear and excitement. All of which are a part of who children are. Our goal is for children to learn to recognize their emotions, understand they are healthy feelings, and learn constructive ways to handle them. We validate their

feelings by saying 'I can see you are feeling angry' (or which ever emotion they display). With positive communication techniques we have the opportunity to model and teach problem solving skills.

Communication

We believe that communication between home and school is an important element for a positive preschool experience. Session newsletters will be sent home explaining upcoming activities. The teachers first priority is to teach, if a situation arises that must be discussed, please email playanddancegp@gmail.com. If there have been any changes in your child's life, please let us know. Even the slightest of change can affect them. Please email: playanddance@gmail.com with questions and concern.

Security

We will unlock the outside door 5 minutes prior to the commencement of class and they will be locked 15 minutes after class has begun. The doors will be unlocked at the end of class.

Your child's safety is a primary concern to us. It is important for your child's teacher to know who will be picking up your child each day. If alternate arrangements are made, please ensure that your child's teacher is aware.

Code of Conduct Policy

Verbal abuse will not be tolerated. Please respect all staff of Play & Dance.

Allergies and Medical

Allergies can be very severe. Please remember we are a **NUT FREE** centre. If a child has a serious allergy we require an EPIPEN to be kept on site. We will have you sign a medical form allowing us to administer medication. In case of a medical emergency the teacher will contact 911 and then the parents. Parents shall be responsible for any cost incurred.

Fire Drills

We are required to have fire drills. The teachers, in advance, will explain to the children the procedure. When the alarm rings we will practice leaving the building in a safe manor: lining up at the door and following the teacher outside. We encourage you to talk fire safety at home.

Emergency Plan

It is required that we have a designated meeting place in the event we need to evacuate the building. In case of such an emergency, the teachers and children will gather in the parking lot directly north of our building. If we have to evacuate for longer then 10 minutes, student and staff will walk to the Town Centre Mall. Parents will be contacted.

Closure

If play & dance needs to be closed for any reason, we will contact you by email or phone. Play & Dance will not be closed due to cold weather.

Health Regulations

If your child is ill please keep them at home until they are better. This lessens the chance of making others, including the teachers, sick! If your child has a communicable disease, you must observe quarantine regulations, as set by Alberta Health: 24 hours since the last symptom. **The following are signs that indicate a communicable disease: earache, vomiting, fever, cough, unusual drowsiness, loss of appetite, sore throat, red or runny eyes, headache, irritability, rash, runny nose of yellow or green, and diarrhea. If a child displays any of these symptoms, we will call you to come and pick them up.**

If a child in our care displays symptoms of, or we have been made aware of, head lice, chicken pox, impetigo and pink eye, your child's teacher will send home a letter (as per Alberta Health's requirement).

All matters will be handled in confidence