

# Philosophy

For optimal learning and development to occur, children need secure, consistent relationships with responsive adults. Happy Time's Teachers get to know each child as an individual and are able to interact one on one to develop warm, positive relationships. Using developmentally appropriate practices, Happy Times teaches the way that match how children develop and learn so as to promote their optimal development and learning. Teachers respect children's ideas and efforts and validate their efforts by acknowledging what they did and how they did it. Learning experiences are challenging enough to promote learning but not so challenging as to frustrate them. By observing children purposefully and regularly, teachers document what they see and hear and use this information to understand each child's development and learning better on an individual basis.

## Mission

Happy Times Preschool thrives to create a warm and nurturing environment that will facilitate the best early education for your child to ensure a lifetime love of learning and a foundation for future school success.

## **Enrollment Requirements**

- An enrollment application and parent consent forms must be completed before your child can enroll into Happy Times.
- The State of Illinois health forms completed by a physician, dated after April 1 of that year, must be turned in before the start of school.
- Copy of the child's birth certificate with an official seal (required by DCFS)

## Spring & Fall, Preschool Options Fees

Preschool programs are in session both morning and afternoon.

Preschool enrollment is secured with a nonrefundable \$125 registration fee (\$75.00 for returning families). The first tuition and a supply fee of either \$65 (2 half days), \$70 (3 half days) or \$75 (all other programs) is also due the first day of school.

## **Days Per of Week**

Program	Tuition
M/W/F ½ day AM	\$ 269.00
M/W/F ½ day PM	\$ 269.00
T/TH ½ day AM	\$ 224.00
T/TH ½ day PM	\$ 224.00
M-F ½ day AM	\$442.00
M-F Full Day	\$774.00

\*Full Day children must be 3 years of age



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Providing high quality, traditional play based preschool and child care since 1968

## **Open Monday-Friday**

8:30a-3:00p

Serving ages 2 years through 6 years

\*Before and After care options are available.



### **Our Curriculum**

Our program is designed to ease the separation of parent and child to set the stage for future learning through a positive first experience at school. Our cozy neighborhood location aids this transition. Recognizing that the home is the most important learning environment, we offer:

- A compatible, safe stimulating and challenging atmosphere which encourages positive development in all areas.
- Opportunities for each child to maximize his/her own potential at a comfortable rate of development.
- Exposures to music, art, natural sciences, ageappropriate math, reading skills, children's literature, group interaction, and language acquisition, in addition to fine-and gross-motor stimulation.

The Creative Curriculum<sup>\*</sup> for Preschool- Teaching Strategies Gold, is a project-based early childhood curriculum designed to foster the development of the whole child through teacher-led small and large group activities. The curriculum provides information on child development, working with families, and organizing the classroom around the 11 interest areas of: Sense of Self, Responsibility for Self and Others, Pro-social Behavior, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Learning and Problem Solving, Logical Thinking, Representation and Symbolic Thinking, Listening and Speaking, Reading and Writing.

### **Class Structure**

Each of our classes consists of a maximum of 15 children, a teacher and an assistant, providing a teacher/child ratio of 1/7+.

### 2 - 3 Year Olds - Junior Preschool

For children who are two years old as of September 1 of the year they attend, or otherwise noted/approved by Director. The goal of this class is social and emotional growth, language development and learning a school schedule. Children do not need to be toilet trained to enroll in this class. There is a \$10.00 monthly toilet training/diaper fee. Diapers are included.

#### 4 Year Olds - Preschool

For children who are three years old as of September 1 of the year they attend, or otherwise noted/approved by Director. Children must be toilet trained to be enrolled in this class.

#### 5 Year Olds - Pre-Kindergarten

For children who are four years old as of September 1 of the year they attend. The curriculum in this classroom supports kindergarten readiness.

*Note: Schedules are flexible because of developmental needs of the children and/or weather conditions.* 

### **Our Schedule**

**Circle Time:** Planned activities emphasizes socializations skills, cognitive development and small motor experience. Some activities include: calendar, weather, Pledge of Allegiance, and readiness skills.

**Learning Activities:** Opportunities to learn and explore all developmental areas through theme based activities. Kindergarten readiness such as letters, numbers, writing skills, sequences, and journaling.

**Art:** A variety of media are provided to offer creative experience through cutting, gluing, painting and coloring.

**Music:** Songs, musical games, CDs and rhythm bands are some of the tools used to enhance the curriculum.

**Spanish:** Basic Spanish will be taught through music once a week within the three programs. Colors, Shapes, Numbers, ABC's, Transportation, and Foods are just a few topics that will be explored.

**Free-Choice Play:** Opportunities to explore and use dramatic play areas, small muscle, manipulative, large muscle equipment, as well as special alternatives set up by the teacher. Some specific activities include: kitchen, blocks, creative play through dress-up, games, and toys.

**Science:** Science is implemented throughout all the activities. However, a set time throughout the daily schedule will be dedicated to the many concepts of

**Snack:** A nutritious snack is provided daily. Happy Times is an "all nut" free facility.

**Outdoor Play:** Children acquire a sense of kinetic awareness through opportunities to run, climb, jump, swing, push, and pull. Our outdoor play equipment and nature center enhance large and small motor skills.

Typical AM Schedule		
Start	End	Activity
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Activity and Free Time
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	Circle Time / Learning & Activity Review
9:15 AM	10:00 AM	Centers
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	Snack
10:15 AM	10:30 AM	Music / Spanish
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Outside Play
11:00 AM	11:10 AM	Story Time
	11:15 AM	Dissmissal

Typical PM Schedule		
Start	End	Activity
12:15 PM	12:45 PM	Activity and Free Time
12:45 PM	1:00 PM	Circle Time / Learning & Activity Review
1:00 PM	1:45 PM	Centers
1:45 PM	2:00 PM	Snack
2:00 PM	2:15 PM	Music / Spanish
2:15 PM	2:45 PM	Outside Play
2:45 PM	2:55 PM	Story Time
	3:00 PM	Dissmissal