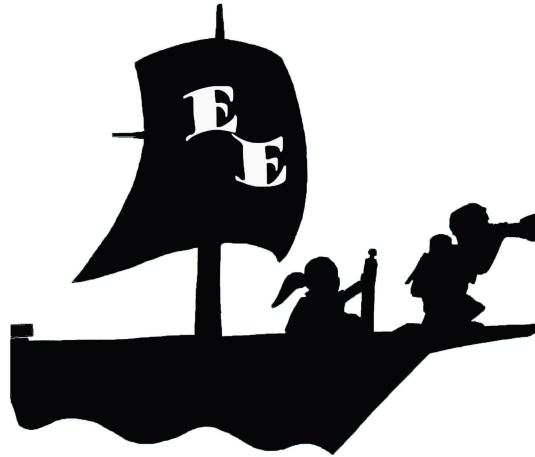


Early Explorers Preschool



**The Unitarian Universalist Congregation
67 Church Street
Montclair, NJ 07042**

**Registration Information
School Year 2015-2016**

**Phone: 973-985-4061
Email: gary@earlyexplorerspreschool.org**

Welcome to Early Explorers Preschool.

Early Explorers Preschool offers a fun and exciting learning environment for children ages 2½-5 years old. Parents have the opportunity to choose from Half Day (9:00-1:00), Partial Day (9:00-3:00), and Full Day (7:30-5:30) programs. Each classroom will include student “interest” areas. These interest areas include a block, dramatic play, sand table, water table, art, music, library, table toys and discovery area. These areas will help children learn in their own unique ways, while accessing a variety of student learning styles. Close personal attention, nurturing and trained staff, and a child driven environment will aid in creating a stimulating learning environment for children to thrive in.

About Us

Mission Statement:

Early Explorers Preschool aims to offer a safe, secure and engaging environment at all times. Close personal attention, nurturing and trained staff, and a child driven environment will aid in creating a stimulating learning environment for children to thrive in.

School Philosophy:

To provide a stimulating and enriching environment for young children to learn, grow, and explore while developing social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language skills. In our school, children learn about the world around them by “doing” with hands-on, meaningful experiences we call “explorations.”

Discipline

Our approach to discipline is a positive one. We handle each situation differently as we discuss feelings, possible solutions, and positive reinforcement in all instances. For example, if a child is having difficulty in an area of the classroom the staff will redirect that child to another area of the classroom. If any child is having great difficulty in the classroom, administration may request a meeting with the parent to discuss what can be done.

Daily Schedule

7:30-9:00- Drop off; Breakfast club; Free Play
9:00-9:20- Circle Time
9:20-10:20-Choice Time/Small Group Time
10:20-10:30-Clean up Time
10:30-11:30- Outside Time
11:30-12:00- Story Time
12:00-12:30-Lunch Time
12:30-1:00-Story Time
1:00-2:15- Rest Time
2:15-2:30- Wake up; prepare for snack
2:30-2:45-Snack Time
2:45-3:00-Story Time
3:00-4:00-Choice Time
4:00-4:15-Clean up Time
4:15-5:00- Outside Time
5:00-5:30- Free Play, Departure Time

Daily Highlights

Circle Time: Allows children the opportunity to experience a sense of belonging to a group. Children will practice communication skills as they express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings with the entire group. Message time, story time, solving problems and planning out the day will all take place during this time.

Small Group Time: Present activities briefly (15-20 minutes) to a few children. During small group time teachers introduce new concepts or new materials, teach particular skills to children who need individual attention, conduct science experiments, retell a story, or a limitless number of other options.

Choice Time: Is one of the longest blocks of the day for the children. During choice time children choose the interest area in which they would like to work, whom they want to work with, and what materials to use. Interest areas include blocks, dramatic play, toys and games, sand and water, music and movement, library and art. When children are finished working in one area and have cleaned up they are free to move to another area. Teachers will observe children, ask open-ended questions, and make suggestions that extend children's play and support their learning.

- **Library Area:** Is a very important part of our classroom and is where children gain the foundation for reading and writing.

- **Toys and Games:** This area includes puzzles, various table blocks, and small construction materials such as Legos, board games, and collections of objects. Here children learn how things work, learn to be creative and use their imaginations, strengthen and control the small muscles in their hands, work cooperatively and solve problems.
- **Dramatic Play:** Allows children to take on different roles and recreate real-life experiences. Pretend play also helps increase your child's vocabulary, which is important for reading.
- **Block Area:** By working with blocks children learn math concepts such as numbers, size, and shapes. They can also compare heights of objects and by moving, shoving, and stacking blocks children explore weight and size.

Holiday Parties/Birthdays

Our curriculum is not holiday driven but we do not ignore that holidays take place in our children's daily lives. Children today, grow up in a very diverse environment, which leads itself to giving children opportunities to learn more about each other and respect our similarities and differences. Parents are always invited to share their family traditions with the class.

School Calendar

Early Explorers Preschool will follow a schedule similar to that of the Montclair Public Schools. A hard copy of the calendar will be distributed to parents in the beginning of the school year. In inclement weather or emergencies we ask that the parents call the center or check the website/Facebook page. If it is necessary to close the school early, you or an emergency contact person will receive a phone call.

Food

Breakfast Club

The breakfast club is designed for our full time students. A light and nutritious breakfast will be served between the hours of 7:30-8:30 when the students first arrive at school. Breakfast items may include waffles, pancakes, mini bagels, breakfast bars, cereal, yogurt, fruit and will also include milk or water.

Lunch

Lunch is a quiet, yet social time when good manners and polite conversation between students is encouraged. Lunch will begin at approximately 12:00 each day. We ask that parents provide a well-balanced and nutritious lunch for their child. We also ask parents to provide a drink, napkin and any utensil they may need on a regular basis. We do not throw away food but rather send uneaten portions home so that parents can see what has and has not been eaten. Lunches should be clearly marked with the child's first and last name on the outside of the lunch bag. Please be aware that we can neither refrigerate nor heat up any lunches.

Afternoon Snack

The afternoon snack is for our full time students. A healthy snack will be provided each day between the hours of 3:00-3:30. Afternoon snack may include but is not limited to goldfish, pretzels, yogurt, carrots and dip, granola bar and graham crackers.

Food Allergies

We will accommodate any and all children with food allergies. We will work with parents with children with food allergies to provide the safest environment to suit their individual needs.

Clothing and Personal Belongings

Dress your child in comfortable, easy to manage clothing—they will be sitting on the floor, painting and playing outdoors. For your child's safety, we strongly advise children to wear sneakers or sneaker like shoes, as they are the safest for active play and movement. All backpacks, coats, hats and mittens should be clearly labeled with the child's name.

Change of Clothes

All children will need a second change of clothes to be placed in a large Ziploc bag with their name on it containing underwear, socks, seasonal top and bottom changing in case of accidents. Soiled clothes will be placed in a plastic bag and sealed with a reminder to replace the change of clothing.

Nap/Rest Time

All children who stay for a full or partial day will also need a blanket and a crib sized sheet, as well as a small pillowcase or bag with their name on it to contain those items. These items will be stored in the child's cubby and should be brought home at the end of each week for laundry. Sheets that are left over the weekend will not be permitted to be used again the following week. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure their child has clean sheets every Monday morning.

Diapers/Potty Training

Children do not need to be potty trained to attend Early Explorers Preschool. Those children who are not potty trained should make sure they have diapers and wipes in their child's cubby everyday. Staff will send home a reminder note when we notice items in their cubby might be low. Please have these items back to school as soon as possible.

Medication

Any medicine that has been prescribed by a physician may be given during school hours. This medication **must** be in the original container with a child-proof cap and labels stating the child's name, date, dosage times and physician's name. At the request of the parent, non-prescription medicine may be administered. No aspirin will be given without the consent of the physician.

Late Pick up

A late fee will be charged when a parent or authorized person fails to pick up a child at the time of the center's daily closing as stated in the tuition/fee agreement form. In case a parent or authorized person is late picking up a child the center will follow these procedures.

- The child will remain supervised at all times.
- Staff members will attempt to contact the parent or authorized person
- If, after one hour past closing time, there is still no contact with the parents or authorized person, we will call the DYFS hot line at 877-652-2873.