



PARENT HANDBOOK
FALL 2023/SPRING 2024

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Rainbow Playschool

WELCOME TO THE RAINBOW PLAYSCHOOL!

We are a play-based and nature-based Licensed Child Care Center nestled into the foothills of Mt. Tom in Woodstock, Vermont. The mission of our program is to provide young children with a stimulating and nurturing environment where they can grow and thrive in all areas of development. We provide age appropriate materials and activities in a relaxed and orderly setting. We foster independence as we guide the children to explore, take risks, expand their ideas and knowledge, and progress at their own pace.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that child directed free play and time in nature is essential to early childhood development. All children are experts at play and when they are allowed the freedom to explore in an outdoor environment and make their own choices, they develop greater independence, ignite their curiosity, learn compassion, and build personal resilience and positive relationships with their environment and their community.

OUR STAFF

We have a devoted team of educators that work together to provide the compassionate and high quality care that makes our mission possible. Our teachers meet and surpass the state qualifications for Early Childhood Educators. All teachers participate in continuing their formal education, yearly professional development, and are certified in CPR and first aid.

POSITIVE GUIDANCE

Our educators use positive reinforcement to help guide and redirect our young children. When we respect and acknowledge the validity of childrens' feelings, we give them the tools to develop inner strength and self-confidence to trust and be in touch with their own feelings. Our job is to allow them to find acceptable outlets for showing their feelings. We encourage verbal expressions ("when she takes the truck from me, I feel angry"), and we provide appropriate physical outlets, (running, playing with water, dramatic play, pounding clay, for instance). Ultimately, this will allow him/her to have compassion for others as well. On occasion we may guide a child to leave an area for a brief period of time when they are showing that they are struggling, but **we do not use "time outs"**. Instead we "take a breath" and try to make a better choice after a very brief discussion when appropriate.

AT RAINBOW WE...

Respect each child's family and culture:

Rainbow Playschool does not discriminate against children, families or staff on the basis of age, gender, race, color, sexual orientation, housing status, religion, cultural heritage, political beliefs, family status, or disability in the administration of its educational policies, employment practices, or any other school sponsored program or activity.

Embrace Difference:

A goal at Rainbow Playschool is for children and their families to be known as individuals. Children come with all sorts of differences and our school supports and embraces differences, whether it is family configuration, gender, medical, physical, cultural or racial. We do this in many ways: through acknowledging and exploring childrens' questions about differences, as educators leaning into differences (rather than avoiding them), and pointing out differences that we notice with books, varied materials, celebration of multiple holidays, and invitations to parents in our community to share their story.

Are inclusive of Special Needs and Disabilities:

The curriculum at Rainbow Playschool will be adapted to provide all children with opportunities to participate in all activities that are appropriate to their age and development. All documents provided for a child with an identified disability, e.g. an IEP (Individual Educational Plan), CIS (Children's Integrated Services, One Plan or the equivalent, shall be kept in the child's file and reviewed with all staff working with this child. Activities shall be adapted for children with disabilities and/or children who are Dual Language Learners to reach the goals described in the IEP or CIS One Plan. Our staff will follow any modifications in routine and emergency procedures and for nurturing activities including diapering, toileting, feeding, dressing and resting, related to children with special needs that are developed in consultation with the child's parents and professionals or agencies providing services to the child.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT TO BRING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR:

- A water bottle that they can keep at school and we will sanitize each day.
- 2-3 changes of seasonally appropriate clothing
- Sunscreen/bug spray to be left at school. Send non-aerosol sunscreen in for your child with their name clearly written on the package. It is required that we have written permission to reapply sunscreen when needed. This permission form is included as part of the yearly contract.
- "Nap Gear"- crib sheet and blanket/sleep sack. These items should be taken home to be laundered on the last weekday of your child's attendance and returned the first day of the following week.
- If your child wears diapers or pull ups, please bring a supply for at least a week that we will keep for use.

WHAT TO BRING EACH DAY: Your child should always bring a bag to school each day and should include a lunch box and any special items needed for the day, including weather related gear.

We suggest a bag/backpack that your child can carry themselves, to help develop independence. Because we regularly send home art projects, paperwork, and soiled clothing, we strongly encourage a bag/backpack that will accommodate these items.

CLOTHES: your child should come to Rainbow Playschool dressed for indoor play and prepared for outdoor play. Please plan for your children to come home with evidence of what they did that day on their clothes. They will get dirty and while we try to use smocks, washable paints, markers and other supplies, they stain from time to time. Keep dress-up clothes and party shoes at home except for special occasions. Special clothes can keep children from playing freely.

FOOTWEAR: We are a nature based play school and spend as much time as we can outdoors, both on the playground and in the national park. We ask that footwear be practical and comfortable, allowing children to run, to climb, and to explore their environment freely and safely. We also believe that there are appropriate times for our children to go barefoot if they so choose, and they are allowed to remove their shoes within our playground, which staff check daily with safety concerns in mind.

If it is snow boot/rain boot weather, your child may bring slippers or shoes for indoor wear.

In the summer, make sure your child is dressed for the heat, including light clothes and a sun hat. Apply sunscreen before bringing your child to school. We will assume this has been done, unless explicitly told otherwise.

In the winter dress your child in appropriate indoor clothes. Winter outdoor wear should always include a coat and snow pants (or snowsuit), hat, gloves/mittens. You should assume your child will spend some time outdoors every day. Please label all clothing, (especially hats and mittens) with your child's name

In rainy weather we suggest full rain suit cover-alls, but separate rain jackets and pants work well, too.

Choose clothes your child can learn to put on and take off. Zippers, buttons, and closings should work for small learning hands. Velcro is great!

SNACKS: We provide snacks mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Snacks consist of a wide variety of well balanced and nutritious foods to include fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, dairy, and whole grains.

LUNCHESES: Children are to bring their lunches from home each day. We eat lunch from about 11:30 to 12:30. If your child arrives after this time due to appointments, etc, they should eat lunch before arriving. We recommend well balanced lunches that include all food groups. Please send all food ready to eat (i.e. apples peeled and cut up, oranges peeled and sectioned etc) and appropriate for your child's age/stage of development, with choking safety in mind. We try to send uneaten food home so that you can see what your child has eaten. Children's appetites vary enormously over time. Try to adjust what you send accordingly. We provide safe drinking water for children throughout the day, please do not send soda, juice, or sugary beverages. Also, candy is not permitted.

BIRTHDAYS: We will celebrate your child's birthday by singing, "Happy Birthday" at snack or lunch and will provide a special healthy snack as part of the celebration. At this time we ask that you not send in birthday treats or invitations from home.

FOOD MODIFICATIONS:

Rainbow is an allergy aware program. Currently we do not have any allergy related food restrictions at Rainbow. If a child with a medically documented severe allergy joins the program and is determined by the Director to be at high risk, we will amend allergen policies and alert families of any change.

NAP TIME: Rest time at Rainbow is a learning opportunity – part of developing the physical aspect of the whole child. Children are taught rest and relaxation techniques. This relieves stress, rejuvenates the child and provides them important processing time. Children lie down on their own mat and relax for 40 minutes. If after 40 minutes the child has not fallen asleep, we will move them to a “Quiet activity area” where they will be offered a choice of activities. Sleeping children will be allowed to sleep and wake naturally.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION: Parent/Teacher communication happens daily at drop off/pick up when time allows and via Procure (our communication app that allows for messaging between families and staff). Our staff is also available through our school email accounts and respond when able. We offer conferences to parents twice a year. If you want to speak to your child's teacher about any concerns, a conference can be arranged at any time. In instances where a topic may not be appropriate to discuss in front of a child, you may want to set up a convenient time to telephone your child's teacher or the Director for an extended conversation.

CONTRACTS AND SCHEDULING: We renew contracts at the beginning of each school year and beginning of the summer sessions. Our tuition for both sessions is a full-time weekly rate, but if your child plans to attend only part-time, that is to be discussed with the Program Director.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP:

We need your cooperation to help us make the early morning, mid-day, and end-of-the-day transitions run smoothly.

8:30 - 9:30 am drop off: We are prepared to take your children at 8:30 each morning. Please communicate via Procure if you plan to drop your child off later than 9:30 or if your child will not be attending.

12:30-1:00 pm pick up: This is the time for mid-day pickup if you choose to have your child attend only in the morning.

4:00-4:30 pm pick up: Afternoon Pick up is usually between 4:00 and 4:30pm. Please communicate if you plan to pick up early so we can have your child prepared for departure. You will be responsible for your child upon your arrival.

Late pick-up: In consideration of our staff, we ask that you are prompt with pick up. We understand that things happen, and when they do please communicate with our staff so we can arrange care for your child outside of our scheduled hours. Repeated pickups after 4:30 will result in our imposing late fee charges as follows:

1-10 minutes late - \$15, 10 - 30 minutes late - \$35, Over 30 minutes late - \$50

SAFE RELEASE OF CHILDREN

1. Only people listed on your child's application may pick up your child from school. Exceptions are made with a note dated and signed by a custodial parent, or a phone call from a custodial parent, or an email or message in procare. People who the staff do not recognize must be able to produce a positive picture ID. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.
2. If you are divorced, separated, and/or are protected by a restraining order, the school requires a copy of the order or custody agreement for its files in order to enforce either one. We can only enforce orders of which we have a copy. Your verbal assurance that an order exists is not sufficient. We cannot keep a child from leaving with a parent without a copy of the written court order.
3. If a parent/guardian or designated pick-up person is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol/drugs, the child's teacher and/or Program Director will call the individual aside to discuss the suspected condition and potential danger to the child. Staff will offer to call a spouse, friend or taxi for the individual. If this is ineffective, staff will notify the police to report their concerns about the welfare of the child and will assist the police as requested.

CLOSINGS: We do our best to remain open, however, there is still a chance that complications (i.e. extreme weather, illnesses, and staffing shortage) may arise, and sometimes closures are unavoidable.

We rarely close due to weather conditions; however, Rainbow may be closed for bad weather at the Board of Director's discretion. **As stated in your contract, the first 3 weather-related closures of the year are built into your contract and you will be not charged. For any additional weather-related closures (such as snow days), families will be financially responsible.** If school must cancel, have a delayed opening or needs to close early, we will send a message through procare to everyone with as much advance notice as possible, **by 7am at the latest for a closing or delay.** Parents are responsible for making judgment on the road conditions and safety of the roads they travel on. Please message us in procare or call asap if you decide not to attend or to pick up early.

Any additional closure days during the Fall 23/Spring 24 session will not be reimbursed and families will be financially responsible unless determined otherwise by the Director and Rainbow Board of Directors.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Please cross-reference Rainbow's closed days with your Public School Calendar.

Rainbow will be closed on the following holidays:

Labor Day- 9/4
Indigenous Peoples Day- 10/9
Thanksgiving (2 days)- 11/23 & 11/24
Winter holiday break (5 days) - 12/25- 12/29
Spring Break (2 days) - 4/8 & 4/9
Memorial Day- 5/27
Independence Day (2 days)- 7/4 & 7/5

We will be closed for **6 school development days:**

the two days before both the summer and the fall terms begin, one day in the winter and one day in the spring, see below.

8/24 & 8/25

6/10 & 6/11

1/15

3/4

Specific dates of scheduled closings and special days to remember are also posted for your convenience on the website at www.rainbowplayschool.org

HEALTH CARE POLICY:

If your child is ill, please keep them out of school. We work hard to limit the spread of communicable disease among our children. Your help is critical in keeping your child and other children at Rainbow healthy. We reserve the right to send a sick child home. If your child becomes ill at school, we will call you so you can make arrangements to pick them up.

CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR CHILD CONTRACTS A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE (i.e. strep throat, Covid, impetigo, chicken pox etc.) so that we may alert the staff and other parents.

Children who are being treated with antibiotics must remain at home a minimum of 24 hours after the beginning of treatment, before returning to school. For contagious illnesses, we require a doctor's okay before your child may return to school. Children who have chickenpox may not return to school until all the spots have scabbed over, and no new ones are appearing.

If a child develops a fever during the day and has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, the parent/guardian will be called to pick up their child as soon as possible.

Children must be fever, diarrhea and vomiting free, without the aid of such medications as Tylenol or Motrin, for a full 24 hours before returning to school.

In accordance with Vermont Child Care Licensing Regulations, every child must have an up to date physical and immunization record on file within 45 days of enrollment. Thereafter, physical records must be updated annually.

ADMINISTRATION AND STORAGE OF MEDICATION:

Medication should always be given by parents at home when possible. If staff are not comfortable administering medication, parents will be asked to come in to administer medicine to their child. **Under no circumstances should medication be left in a child's bag/backpack/lunchbox without alerting staff of its presence. This is a hazard for children.**

- Prescription Medication for Children:
When prescription medicine is to be administered to a child, the medication must be presented in the original bottle with a label affixed by the pharmacy or physician showing the child's first and last name, the dosage and schedule of administration, what the prescription contains, the date purchased and the physician's name. In addition, a medical authorization form must be signed by the parent/guardian in each case.
- Non-Prescription Medication for Children:
When non-prescription medicine is to be administered to a child, it must be accompanied by a medical authorization form signed by the parent or guardian. The medication must be in the original packaging where warnings, side effects and dosages can be checked and reviewed with the parent/guardian. This includes any homeopathic treatments.
- Topical Non-Prescription Medication:
Topical non-prescription medications such as sunscreen, diaper cream, petroleum jelly or other ointments may be applied to a child only with written parental authorization via a signed consent form, which is included in the contract. This form must be renewed annually.

We do not call parents/guardians for minor scrapes, but we will inform you of any incident for which we use our first aid supplies.

911 will be called for a child needing emergency treatment. The parent/guardian will be notified immediately. Whenever possible a staff member will accompany the child in the ambulance or to hospital until the parent arrives. (Exceptions may include injuries to more than one child or to the staff.)

PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCIES:

Our comprehensive Emergency Plan is kept in a binder labeled "Emergency Procedures" in the Main Lobby/Library.

In the event that there needs to be an evacuation from the building, the children will be escorted as quickly as possible to the main meeting site (the small parking lot on the south side of the building [near the dumpsters]). In the event that this site is not available, the alternative site will be used (the far end of the large parking lot near the solar fields). In the event that we need to leave the property, our primary off-site evacuation location is:

The NPS Forest Center at 54 Elm St. Woodstock, VT 05091

If this site is inaccessible, the secondary off-site evacuation location is:
Janice Graham & Company, 446 Barnard Rd, Woodstock, VT 05091

*Additional information including off-site evacuation locations can be found on our website in the "resources" section under "emergency plans".

If we must shelter in place due to a weather emergency or a safety threat making it unsafe for the children to leave the site, staff will close all of the blinds and transition to the shelter-in-location within the building. In the event that a more secure location is needed, staff will accompany all children to our secondary secure shelter-in-place location.

In the case of all Emergencies, Staff of each room will be responsible for: bringing the tablet for communication with families as well as their cell phones and a backpack containing supplies (water, snacks, first aid kit, hygiene supplies, and some activities for the children such as books, coloring etc.)

The Program Director or the 2nd in Command will be responsible for: placing a pre-prepared sign on the main door in case we go to another location with a written address and directions so parents know where to go in the case of an evacuation. The Program Director or the 2nd in Command will contact all families to let them know that an emergency has occurred, what steps are being taken, and when and where they can pick up their children once the emergency is over.

NO SMOKING POLICY: There is no smoking allowed anywhere on the premises

TESTING FOR LEAD IN THE WATER: We test annually for lead in water in accordance with the State of Vermont. In the event that it is determined that the water is unsafe for drinking, The Rainbow Playschool will use bottled water until the water has been tested again and found to be within the required range for safe drinking water.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF CHILD AND FAMILY INFORMATION: Information about each child is kept in strict confidence. Information pertaining to your child is kept in an individual file and stored in a locked cabinet. Parents must give the school written permission to share any information about their child with a pediatrician, other schools, and/or specialists. Please also note that contact information (phone numbers and emails) for other Rainbow Families is confidential information, unless you the family elects to be in our school directory and signs the permission in their child's contract.

EXPULSION OF CHILDREN: Our goal at The Rainbow Playschool is for children to feel happy and successful at school whenever possible. If a child is showing repeated difficult behaviors despite several attempts to resolve by the lead teacher, the program director shall consult with the lead teacher, the parents and any professionals involved to design an effective behavior management plan and adapt behavior management practices for a child who exhibits a pattern of challenging behavior. Our goal is for such concerns to be resolved so that enrollment can continue. In the event that the Program Director determines that it is best for the child to no longer participate in the program, written notice to the child's parent(s) will be given with at least five (5) days notice prior to expulsion.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY: The Rainbow Playschool does not provide transportation. See the above information on pick up and drop off locations. Vermont regulations require that children should be released only to people who are authorized by the child's family.

FIELD TRIPS: On occasion a group may walk down to Billings Farm or to the adjacent state park. Written parent permission will be given prior to enrollment and kept in the child profile. All children will be physically and visually supervised during this time.

BABYSITTING:

Rainbow Playschool has a no babysitting and no transporting policy. It is in place to protect us from any liability claims for implied approval or recommendation of anyone to babysit or transport children outside of their job here at Rainbow.

If a family chooses to take exception to this policy a CONSENT TO HOLD HARMLESS FORM must be signed by the parent(s), the Program Director and the teacher.

Failure to sign this form in advance of any private services to families enrolled at Rainbow Playschool may result in termination of employment of the involved employee and termination of the family's contract(s) with Rainbow Playschool.

TUITION AND FEES:

Tuition for the 2023/2024 Calendar Year is as follows:

| 6 weeks - 3 years | 3 years - 5 years |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Weekly Rate | Weekly Rate |
| \$362 | \$305 |

A one-time Activity/Supply fee of \$135.00 this will be posted on the first billing invoice of your stated School Year contract.

A separate one-time Activity/Supply fee of \$35.00 will be posted on the first billing invoice of your stated Summer Session contract.

1. Rainbow requires a deposit, in the amount of one week of tuition, upon signing your contract. The deposit will be returned to you after receipt of your final payment at the end of your enrollment with Rainbow Playschool. The deposit is refundable with one-month notice before withdrawing or moving on to another school. The deposit is not refundable if you break the terms of the contract, or if your child enrolls, but never attends. You also lose the deposit if your child is a current student who we are holding a space for the following session, and they do not attend.
2. Payments are due the first of each month prior to attendance. If you absolutely must break down payment to weekly and bi-weekly, arrangements should be made with the Program Director. Weekly and biweekly payments are due in advance of attendance. Monthly payments are due on the first of the month. Payments made after that time will incur an 18% finance fee. If your bill remains unpaid at month's end, we will require you to withdraw your child until payment has been made in full at which time your child may return if the vacancy has not been filled.
3. Credit will be given for unexpected building related school closings such as problems with heat or water. Credit will not be given for closures related to staffing shortages or Covid-19, unless determined otherwise by the Program Director and Rainbow Board of Directors.
4. In accordance with your contract, the first three snow days of the year have been built into the terms of your contract. You will not see reimbursements or credits for these first three snow days on your monthly invoice.
5. Picking up late at the end of day will result in late charge (see page 7).
6. A \$25.00 fee will be charged for all returned checks.
7. We strive to keep fees reasonable. When operating expenses increase we are forced to raise our fees. We will post a 30-day notice when a raise in fees is necessary. This is usually a 3-5% increase.

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULES:

Infant Room: (Young Infants are on their own schedule based on parent communication, however below is an example of a possible daily schedule)

8:30-9:30 Arrival/Indoor or Outdoor Play/Diapering
9:30-10:00 Bottles/Snack
10:00-10:30 Nap start for younger infants that take 2 naps
10:30-11:30 Indoor/Outdoor Play/Wakeup for nappers/Diapering
11:30-12:00 Lunch/Bottles
12:00-1:30 Nap/Quiet Time
1:30- 2:30 Wake up/Diapering
2:30-3:30 PM snack or last bottle/play time
3:30-4:30 Indoor or Outdoor Play/Departure

Toddler 1 Room:

8:30-9:30 Arrival/Indoor or Outdoor Play
9:30-10:00 AM Snack/Diapering
10:30-10:45 Circle time/Storytime
10:45-11:30 Table Projects/ Indoor or Outdoor play
11:30-12:00 Lunch/Diapering
12:00-2:30 Nap
2:30-3:00 Wake up/Quiet Activities
3:00-3:30 PM Snack/Diapering
3:30-4:30 Indoor or Outdoor Play/ Departure

Toddler 2 Room:

8:30-9:30 Arrival/Indoor or Outdoor Play
9:30-10:00 AM Snack/Diapering/Toilet Training
10:30-10:45 Circle time/Storytime
10:45-11:30 Table Projects/ Indoor or Outdoor play
11:30-12:30 Lunch/Diapering/Toilet Training
12:30-2:30 Nap
2:30-3:00 Wake up/Quiet Activities
3:00-3:30 PM Snack/Diapering/Toilet Training
3:30-4:30 Indoor or Outdoor Play/ Departure

Preschool:

8:30-9:30 Arrival/Indoor or Outdoor Play
9:30-9:45 AM Snack
9:45-10:45 Circle time/Themed Learning Activity/Table Project
10:45-11:45 Indoor or Outdoor Play
11:45-12:45 Lunch / Storytime
12:45-2:45 Nap/Quiet Activities/Wakeup
2:45-3:00 PM Snack
3:00-4:30 Themed Learning Activity/Indoor or Outdoor Play/Departure

RAINBOW CURRICULUM

We use weekly or monthly themes (safety, taking care of our earth, insects, for example), as well as seasonal and holiday themes to help guide our curriculum and classroom lesson plans. Our planned projects, activities, and playscapes encourage development in all areas. We incorporate nature-based learning opportunities and outdoor education as part of our overall curriculum.

Approach to Learning: We encourage learning through hands-on activities and experimentation. Teachers play, model, and engage with children by scaffolding their interests, learning styles and abilities, and developing the environment around early learning standards and guidelines of early childhood development.

Social and Emotional Development: Children will develop a sense of self- worth and mutual respect for other people, their environment, and materials when given the freedom to explore ideas and ask questions. Our Educators will support problem solving and conflict resolution, and model cooperation and sharing. With this approach our children will learn to associate with adults and other children in a positive and caring manner and realize that all people matter. Our Educators support social and emotional development by including them in the rule-making process, establishing limits, helping them take responsibility for their actions, self regulating their own behavior, taking turns, respecting others' feelings, developing empathy, learning that our feelings matter and when it is or is not appropriate to act on them. Our Educators will utilize a variety of tools like books, games, toys, puppets, dramatic play and an intentionally designed environment to promote this development.

Physical Health & Development is promoted through healthy lifestyle practice such as: hand washing, personal hygiene, serving and learning about healthy food choices, rest and relaxation techniques, exercise through yoga and focused movement, and of course outdoor play- promoting large motor development. Our natural outdoor play-scape includes areas to run, climb, dig, jump, swing, and balance using balls, hoops, wheels, bikes, scooters, beams. Gross-motor skills are also developed in practical life activities outside like raking, sweeping and shoveling. Fine-motor skills are developed naturally in play outdoors when scooping, pouring, transferring, and stacking, for example. Activities such as cutting, writing, drawing, gluing, tearing, folding, sorting, and dress-up also support fine motor skill development.

Cognitive Development in the Following Subject Areas:

Language, Literacy, and Communication: is encouraged through hands-on lessons, themed circle time and calendar, dramatic play, conversation, questioning, verbalizing wants and needs, listening, following directions, music, exposure to new vocabulary, rhyming, writing, and story-time.

Pre-Reading: Children develop pre-reading skills by allowing them to read along in a book, beginning to recognize their own name and names of friends and family, learning the alphabet, labeling, rhyming, recognizing sounds of letters, recognizing simple words.

Mathematics: Math skills such as counting, number recognition, shapes, measuring, patterning, and sequencing are encouraged during activities such as games, guided lessons, blocks, sequence cards, manipulative materials, ordering, matching, cooking and simple addition and subtraction lessons.

Science: Is learned through cooking, experiments, nature observation, seasonal observation, weather, learning about our own bodies and the environment. Our educators guide our children to hypothesize, develop theories, and problem solve using books, natural materials, publications, observation equipment, and tools of measurement. We want the children to be curious, investigate, express wonder, and enjoy discovering!

Social Studies: Involves learning about us, our families and our heritage. We study world culture and customs using books, publications, pictures, costumes, and food. Themes and studies are incorporated into dramatic play, music, dance, cooking, storytelling, and arts & crafts.

Creative Expression is experienced and enhanced through music, movement & dance, art media, crafts, display of artwork, theatrical experiences and activities.

Self Help/Independence: Practical life skills are developed with the practice of using zippers, buttons, laces, snaps, Velcro, buckles, ties, handwashing; as well as setting and washing tables, taking care of belongings, special jobs, and dressing oneself.

Sensorial Awareness: Is encouraged through visual (smaller/larger, taller/shorter, narrow/wide), hearing (sounds: near/far, music: high/low), taste (sweet/sour, chewy/liquid, salty/bland, bitter/sweet), smell (variety of scents); touch (rough/smooth, heavy/light, warm/cold).

PRESCHOOL

According to the State of Vermont Agency of Education, Rainbow Playschool meets the specific requirements needed to be considered a: Qualified Prekindergarten Education Program. This qualification means children at Rainbow who are at least 3 years of age on or before September 1st are eligible to receive ACT 166 funding. **Parents of the children must apply through their school district by August to be eligible.

Your child's enrollment in Rainbow Playschool's PreK classroom qualifies you to participate in Vermont's Act 166 Universal PreKindergarten Education Program. This state program provides funding to children ages 3-5 and covers 10 hours of Preschool Education per week for 35 weeks. These 10 hours equate to 2 mornings at Rainbow Playschool. The 35 weeks of funding are predetermined by the school district in which you registered for Act 166. As part of Rainbow Playschool's agreement with your hometown school district and in order to receive Act 166 funding, Rainbow Playschool is responsible for reporting weekly attendance to your district. As per our contract and this Parent Handbook, your child's classroom teachers should be notified when your child will be absent.

Our Preschool Program aligns the curriculum with the Vermont Early Learning Standards while adapting experiences to support the full participation of each and every child to realize their full potential and promote successful outcomes. In addition to attendance, Rainbow Playschool agrees to conduct two assessments of your child's progress in our PreK Program during the year. The results of these assessments will be forwarded to your hometown school district who may choose to contact you directly to further discuss your child's progress.

SUMMER AT RAINBOW

Our summer program is conducted in a camp-like atmosphere and takes advantage of the outdoors as much as possible. Activities are built around the interests and abilities of the children attending during the current term and include enrichment activities and learning opportunities such as walking field trips, community study, music & movement, yoga, recreational games, creative arts, literature, drama, blocks & building, science discovery, sensory play (including sand & water), and lots of outdoor events and play. Our Educators still create lesson plans surrounding weekly themes and will continue to observe and document children's developmental progress.

We have a separate summer contract for the summer months. If we have space available for drop-in children, we will take only children who have previously attended Rainbow and have completed required paperwork.