



Highlands Academy

Tour Packet



Highlands Academy is a play based nursery and preschool committed to the needs of busy families living or working in the Highlands and Downtown area. Highlands Academy is dedicated to providing a nurturing and academic environment where infants through pre kindergarten age children will grow, develop and thrive.

This packet is prepared to assist your understanding of our general practice and routines. With the accompaniment of a personal tour, this can help you make a decision on what is best for your family when it comes to childcare.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Highlands Academy

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Experience Curriculum is a flexible system that grows with your children from birth through age five with differentiated instruction with tangible tips for how to adapt projects, integrated themes, disciplines, and domains that align with the Colorado Early Learning Development Guidelines for infant/toddlers and ages 3-5



INFANT: Your child will participate in a nationally recognized education program that is designed uniquely for infants from birth to 18 months. Experience Baby Curriculum is an infant curriculum that supports relationship-based play and discovery. As your child participates in this program, they will:

- Build emotional connections that are key for developmental growth.
- Have access to specialized sensory tools and toys that invite them to explore and make sense of their environment.
- Engage in playful activities that stimulate their brain and support their development of 23 foundational skills.

TODDLER: Your child will participate in a nationally recognized educational program that is designed uniquely for toddlers. Experience Toddler is a research-based curriculum that supports your child's rapidly growing curiosity. As your child participates in this program, they will:

- Build relationship skills and learn to express their feelings.
- Have access to specialized books, tools, art materials and toys that invite them to investigate new concepts and build vocabulary.
- Engage in playful activities that stimulate their brain and support their development of 35 foundational skills.

PRESCHOOL- PRE-K: Experience Preschool is a research-based curriculum that supports your child's rapidly growing curiosity. As your child participates in this nationally recognized program, they will:

- Build friendship skills and learn to how to express their feelings.
- Have access to specialized books, science tools, art materials, games and math manipulatives to encourage problem-solving and creative thinking.
- Engage in daily routines and activities that support brain development while also building the self-regulation and attention span needed for long-term school success.



What to expect in the Infant Classroom

THE CLASSROOM

- The Infant classrooms have 10 children with ages ranging from 6 weeks-18 months.
- The legal teacher to child ratio is 1:5. Highlands Academy has a lead teacher and two assistants (3 teachers for the majority of the day to create consistency and community).
- The program strives to foster independence, physical development, and language development for infants. This is achieved by having an open and safe classroom where the children are not inhibited by items such as playpens, walkers, or jumpers.
- Our classrooms are trained in responsive caregiving; children under the age of one sleep when they are tired and eat when they are hungry. Around twelve months our teachers will begin to work with the parents to adjust the child to a regular eating schedule and one nap per day in preparation for the Toddler Community.
- The parents and the teacher must work together VERY closely during these early months in order to ensure that there is consistency between home and school.
- Communication via Brightwheel will provide updates throughout the day on eating, sleeping, diaper changes, and classroom activity.
- The Infant classrooms experience three of our ancillary programs, Spanish, Yoga and Music.

THE PROGRAM

Activities in an Infant classroom are not as defined as they are at the Toddler and Preschool levels. Instead, in the Infant class, the babies are working any time they are awake (and even when they are asleep!). The environment is designed to stimulate the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of the infant. Lessons and activities are designed to build both gross and fine motor skills such as grasping, batting, reaching, rolling over, crawling, standing, cruising and walking; activities to boost language development such as teachers singing, talking, naming objects, describing pictures and reading; and activities that encourage spatial awareness, sensory exploration, toilet learning, and the beginnings of self-care. Infants are also introduced to basic musical instruments and art.



What to Expect in the Toddler Program

THE CLASSROOM

- The Toddler classrooms have 10 children each ranging from 12-36 months.
- The legal teacher to child ratio is 1:5. Highlands Academy has a lead teacher and two assistants (3 teachers during the majority of the day).
- Communication via Brightwheel will provide updates throughout the day on eating, sleeping, diaper changes, and classroom activity.

Each of the classrooms have the following areas:

- Dramatic Play- Dress up and make-believe play.
- Library- Focused on the development of phonetics as well as a love of reading and books.
- Toys & Games- Manipulatives, puzzles, cause & effect toys
- Discovery- Exploration of natural environment and classification of living things and concepts.
- Art- Creative exploration focused on developing fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination
- Blocks- exploration of spatial awareness with building blocks
- Outdoor- Gross Motor exploration, sandbox and sensory play
- Music & Movement- Gross motor and language development with songs and rhythm.

THE PROGRAM

- As language development is essential at this age, teachers do many lessons involving language. Adults will model for children how to use their words to communicate their needs and feelings.
- At this age, the children will begin participating in group time. This is a time of day when all of the children gather with an adult and enjoy group discussions, songs, and books as a classroom group.
- Children will participate in routine activities that will encourage them to take responsibility for caring for themselves and their classroom environment.
- Parents escort their child into the Toddler classroom and allow the child to hang up their belongings. Exiting the classroom soon after is best. The teachers are there to assist you and your child in the case your child needs extra help separating.
- Nap time happens between 12:00-3:00 for the entire group of children. They sleep in the classroom on a mat and sheet provided by the school. Parents can provide a blanket that will be sent home to be laundered once a week. If your child does not nap the entire duration, he/she will be given a quiet activity until the rest of the classroom has woken.
- The Toddler classrooms experience four ancillary programs: Yoga, Music, Spanish and Little Champs.

Toilet Learning

- After 18 months, one of the major areas of focus is toilet learning. The teacher and parents will partner together to determine when your child is showing readiness to toilet learn. When your child begins toilet learning, you will be asked to provide an ample amount of underwear and extra clothes. The children wear underwear throughout the day in order to begin to understand their own bodily functions.
- At this age, it is of utmost importance that the children are provided with clothing that allows them independence. This means that they are able to put on and remove every article of clothing on their bodies with little to no assistance from an adult.



What to Expect in the Preschool Program

THE CLASSROOM

- The Preschool classrooms have children from 30 months to 5 years. They have 16-20 children in each room depending on age range and ratios.
- The teacher to child ratio is 1:10 with one lead and 2 assistants.
- Communication via Brightwheel will provide updates throughout the day on eating, sleeping, bathrooms, and classroom activity.

All of the classrooms have the following areas:

- Dramatic Play- dress up and make-believe play.
- Discovery- Exploration of natural environment and classification of living things and concepts such as classify objects of their environment using the five senses, sensory table
- Library- Focused on the development of phonetics as well as a love of reading and books.
- Toys & Games- Manipulatives, puzzles, cause & effect toys
- Art- Creative exploration focused on developing fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination
- Blocks- exploration of spatial awareness with building blocks
- Outdoor- Gross Motor exploration, sandbox and sensory play
- Music & Movement- Gross motor and language development with songs and rhythm.

Toilet Learning: In order to be in the older preschool classrooms the child will need to be wearing underwear and independently able to use the restroom most of the time.

THE PROGRAM

- This program is various levels depending on the 30 month classroom or the 3 year old classroom, but you will see more involved activities than in the toddler rooms. While the studies remain the same, the complexities and challenges increase with the age level.
- Teachers do many lessons involving language and comprehension. Adults will model for children how to use their words to communicate their needs and feelings.
- At this age, the children will begin participating in group time. This is a time of day when all of the children gather with an adult and enjoy group discussions, songs, and books as a classroom group.
- Children will participate in routine activities that will encourage them to take responsibility for caring for themselves and their classroom environment.
- Parents escort their children into the Preschool classroom and allow the child to hang up their belongings. Exiting the classroom soon after is best. The teachers are there to assist you and your child in the case your child needs extra help separating.
- Nap time happens from 1:00-3:00 for the entire group of children. They sleep in the classroom on a mat provided by the school. Parents can provide a blanket that will be laundered once a week. We provide the sheets. If your child does not nap the entire duration, he/she will be given a quiet activity until the rest of the classroom has woken.
- Preschool classrooms experience five of our ancillary programs Yoga, Music, Spanish, Little Champs and Social Emotional Group Support.



Waitlist Application

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|
| Family Contacts _____ | Parent Name | : | _____ |
| | Address | : | _____ |
| | Phone | : | _____ |
| | Email | : | _____ |
| Tour Information _____ | Tour Guide/ Date | : | _____ |
| | Child Name M / F | : | _____ |
| | Birthdate/Due Date | : | _____ |

WAITLIST INFORMATION

Anticipated
Start Date

Tution quoted

Application Fee DUE

Family Signature