

Rainbow Preschool Program

Troy Recreation Dept.
3179 Livernois
Troy, MI 48083



Rainbow Preschool Parent & Tot Class

Parent Handbook



Important Phone Numbers:

- Troy Recreation Offices: 248-524-3484
- Weather Hotline: 248-689-9756

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Thus A Child Learns

THUS A CHILD LEARNS

Thus a child learns;
 by wiggling skills through his fingers and toes into himself;
 by soaking up habits and attitudes of those around him;
 by pushing and pulling his own world.

Thus a child learns;
 more through trial than error;
 more through pleasure than pain;
 more through experience than suggestion;
 more through suggestion than direction.

Thus a child learns;
 through affection, through love,
 through patience, through understanding,
 through belonging, through doing and through being.

Day by day the child comes to know a little bit of what you know;
 to think a little bit of what you think;
 to understand your understanding.
 That which you dream and believe and are, in truth, becomes the child.

As you perceive dully or clearly;
 as you think fuzzily or sharply;
 as you believe foolishly or wisely;
 as you dream drably or goldenly;
 as you bear false witness or tell the truth - thus a child learns.



On Growing Up

On Growing Up



I see children as kites. You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you are both breathless—they crash—they hit the rooftop—you patch and comfort, adjust and teach.

You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them someday they'll fly! Finally they are airborne. They need more string and you keep letting it out.

But with each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with the joy. The kite becomes more distant, and you know it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you together! And it will soar as it is meant to soar, free and alone.

(Only then do you know that you did your job.)

By Erma Bombeck

Welcome to Rainbow Preschool~



The intent of this manual is to provide an overview of our Rainbow Parent and Tot preschool program so that we can ensure a safe, well organized and fun experience for you and your child.

Should you have any questions after reading the manual please ask one of your instructors or contact Lynn Orr, Preschool Coordinator at 248-524-3484 or e-mail @ L.Orr@troymi.gov.

We hope you enjoy your class!
Troy Recreation Department

Philosophy

The City of Troy Parks and Recreation Department's Rainbow Parent & Tot program is designed to enhance interaction through play and to provide a learning experience for the children. The program provides for the emotional growth of the child as the child moves from a protected individualized home experience to a group experience. Every effort is made to help the child feel secure in the new setting, depending on the individual child's need. Parents too are present to help guide their child during this transition period.

The Parent and Tot program is designed for a one-to-one relationship between parent and to in a nursery school setting. Each parent works and plays with their child. Repetition is very important for children at this age level. The need to know there is a schedule to follow and that is consistent makes the child more self-confident.

The teacher is there only as a facilitator providing held when needed. It is also a lead-up for the Rainbow Preschool (3-5 yrs).

Program Structure

When your child comes to class Remember ~ it is a child's world!

- Their Activities
- Their Ideas
- Their Work
- Their Fun!!



Sometimes a child's idea of decoration, beauty and good housekeeping does not coincide with an adult's.

A child's imagination is great! Children can do wonderful things—paint the wind, dance like leaf, and find joy and happiness in simple tasks. These are abilities that adults may have lost along the way.

When your child enters the classroom, it will be a brief visit to the wonderful world of young children. It is a joy to see their enthusiasm for living and learning.

Structure/Goals

LEVEL	PROGRAM	MAJOR GOAL
1	Parent & Tot Nursery 18 months-2 yrs 11 months	One-to-one play relationship of parent & child.
2	Pre-Rainbow-It's Fun Being Three 2 ½ - 3 ½ years	Independence from home environment.
3	Rainbow Preschool (3-4 yrs) Rainbow Preschool (4-5 yrs)	Socializing and group interaction skills. Continuing socialization skills and pre-kindergarten readiness skills.

Classroom Etiquette

- * Parents should encourage and reinforce classrooms rules of sharing and "taking turns".
- * Please keep all food and beverages in diaper bag or cubbies.
- * Cell phone usage should be limited to emergency situations.
- * Please be considerate of the other children and parents if your child is sick.
- * Remember you are your child's first teacher. Please show kindness and respect for each other.
- * Parents are required to stay in classroom for the duration of the class. Teachers cannot be responsible for your child unless absolutely necessary. (ex. Use of restroom)
- * Parents should strongly encourage your child to join in circle time activities.

Playdough Recipe

Many parents ask for our popular playdough recipe, which is very easy to make. The recipe follows:

Bring 2 cups of water to boil.
Add: ½ cup salt
Stir until dissolved.
Remove from heat.

Add: food coloring
2 tablespoons alum
2 tablespoons salad oil
2 cups flour

Knead together when cool. Keep in a plastic bag or tightly sealed container.





Typical Day

Our program is set up so that we work within a particular time frame. Routine to a child is extremely important even though it may seem repetitious to parents.

- A. **CHOICE TIME:** (45-60 minutes) This is a time for your child to choose and explore the varied activities provided.

Art: Alternate pasting and painting projects are provided each week. The child is encouraged to do his/her own “free expression” on all the art projects. Parents, it is not your project. Please do not force your child to complete it if he/she decides not to finish it.

Playdough

Water-sand play

Fine motor-table toys: including puzzles, beads, etc.

Large gross motor: large trucks, blocks, slide, boat, etc.

Dramatic play: clothes, dishes, etc.

Reading corner: books

- B. **SNACK:** Juice and crackers are provided. Generally one party per session is planned. Parents may be asked to bring a treat for the party. Please do not bring cupcakes. Remember, we are a peanut free environment.
- C. **GROUP TIME:** Songs, rhythm activities, finger plays and gross motor activities. Many children are not ready to sit still while the instructors are doing group time and that is considered normal behavior. The parent should not feel upset or embarrassed.

Program Guidelines

Attendance:

It is very important to your child’s emotional and social well being to be prompt for the start of each class. Attendance for each session is essential for continuity of the program. A routine of attending classes is similar to a security blanket for your children just developing concepts of space and time. The instructor will start class at the assigned time.

There are no refunds or credits for absences for any reason, nor can classes be made up at another time or day.

Holidays/Inclement Weather:

Legal holidays, which fall during the session, are exempt from make-up classes and have been planned into the school calendar. If weather is inclement, call our Hotline number 689-9756 by 8:15 a.m. for morning sessions. This number will give you information concerning classes if they are to be canceled. An effort will be made to schedule a make-up date if the class/program is cancelled. However, if that is not possible, no partial refunds or credits will be given.

Illness:

Please keep your child at home if:

- * He/she has a fever or has had one during the previous 24 hours
- * He/she has a heavy nasal discharge
- * He/she has a continuous hoarse voice
- * He/she has symptoms of a possible communicable disease
- * He/she has sniffles, reddened eyes, sore throat, headaches, etc.



Program Guidelines (continued)

Discipline:

It will be up to each parent to discipline his/her own child.

Clothing:

Children need to be dressed in clothes that give them freedom to move and play without the fear of spilling paint on themselves or GETTING DIRTY; that keep them warm in cold weather and that keep them cool when it is hot. Soft-soled shoes (e.g. tennis shoes) should be worn for the safety of the child especially around the water table and on the outdoor play equipment. Parents, too, are encouraged to wear soft-soled shoes.

Arrival Procedures:

Teachers have to set up the room, so the door will not open until the starting time of the class.



Class Times:

Class times are listed in the Troy Parks and Recreation section of the Troy Today. The Bulletin is published four times per year and mailed to all Troy residents.

Refunds:

If a parent decides to withdraw a child from class, it must be requested before the second class meeting. A \$10.00 service fee applies to all refunds. Call the Troy Parks and Recreation Department at 524-3484.

Registration is held at the Troy Community Center four times a year. Check the bulletin for dates and details. You must register each quarter – your spot is not held from quarter to quarter.

Program Guidelines (continued)

Name Tags:

Name tags are provided for parent and child and should be worn at each and every class. They are to be left in class until the end of the session. They will be placed out on a table so the child can discover the educational skill of name recognition.

Staff:

All the instructors have college degrees with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education and/or preschool instructional experience. Occasionally a qualified teacher substitute may be utilized in the classroom when necessary.

Siblings:

Please do not bring siblings to the Parent and Tot classes. Our room becomes quite full with tots and 11 adults. There is babysitting available to all classes on Monday- Friday in the mornings. Unless you can make your own arrangements, we require all siblings to use this service. Siblings are not permitted to attend as a guest because it is unfair to the parents who do adhere to this policy. This also pertains to infants born during the session.

Clean-up:

It is necessary for all the parents and tots to help in cleaning up the classroom during clean up time. This makes for a nicer and cleaner classroom. It also promotes independence, responsibility, a sense of order, and coordination in the child.

