WELCOME TO FOOTPRINTS 4 LEARNING PRESCHOOL

We are so excited to welcome you to Footprints for Learning Preschool!

To begin, we wanted to note a few things to help us all settle in faster and make for an easier transition.

What to Bring:

On your child's first day of school, please remember to bring the following:

- Indoor shoes and a change of clothes. These can be kept in your child's cubby in the lobby, all year long (Kings Heights) or brought to school each day in a backpack (Main Street).
- Each day, your child also needs to remember his/her filled water bottle
- Each day please bring a small healthy snack. Snacks must be nut free and items such as grapes, must be sliced in half. PLEASE BE SURE THAT ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME! Full-day children must bring a lunch also.
- We also ask that items such as toys, that are brought from home, are kept out of the classroom. We will have opportunities for show and tell and we will update you on this in the monthly newsletters.
- If your child has medications that must stay at school (such as Epi-pens, inhalers, etc.), please make sure they are brought to the classroom at the "Meet the Teacher" event, and that all appropriate forms are filled out.

First Day of School:

The first day of school is a very special time, but it can be filled with emotion for both children and parents! We hope you have had the opportunity to have many discussions about preschool with your child so that he/she may have an idea about what to expect. Our "Meet the Teacher" day is a great opportunity for your child to get acquainted with the classroom and with the teachers. If your child is feeling uncomfortable on his/her first day of school, parents are welcome to accompany their child into the classroom to help warm them up to the class for the first 15 minutes. If your child seems content or distracted before that time, it is a good opportunity for you to make your way out of the classroom. After 15 minutes however, we will ask that all parents make their way out and we will console any children that may find the separation difficult. Remember that this is very new for most children and they can be uncertain and a bit scared. The more confident you appear to be, the more confident and trusting your child will be. If any child is inconsolable for a length of time, we will call you to let you know. We appreciate your help in this transition.

Arrival and Dismissal:

We will open the doors a few minutes prior to the class beginning. Before entering the classroom, please place all outdoor clothing and shoes in the locker/cubby located by the lobby. Please find the locker/cubby with your child's name on it. Remember to take everything out of the locker/cubby after each class as other children from other classes use them also. Your child can then put on his/her indoor shoes and bring their snack and water bottle. At this point you can give your child a hug and kiss and say your good-byes. The children will be greeted at the door by a teacher and welcomed into the class. We will sign your child in.

In the beginning, some children may still be hesitant and upset. We ask that parents say their "confident" good-byes at the door and we will console your child in the class. The sooner the children understand that this is the new routine and it is okay, the sooner they will become more comfortable. If you have any questions or concerns, please see their teacher.

At dismissal we ask that parents wait outside the classroom. Once the class is over, the children will collect their things and we will dismiss them as soon as we see their parent/caregiver. If you need to speak to us, please let us know and we will make time at the end of dismissal. Be aware that it will take us a few weeks to get to know all of the parents and other people picking up the children, so we will require everyone to show identification at pick up. Please have it ready and please be patient for the first little while.

If you are going to be late dropping off your child, or are picking up your child up early, please advise the teachers in advance. When you arrive, please knock on the door or ring the doorbell so that a teacher can greet your child or can see that you are here to pick up your child.

School Calendar:

Our Preschool runs from the beginning of September to near the end of June. Each year. We follow a calendar similar to the Rocky View school division calendar and are closed on most school and statutory holidays. We will also be closed during inclement weather conditions; such closures will be announced by email. Please check your email prior to coming on bad weather days. For a detailed calendar of our preschool, including field trips and party dates, please visit our website at www.footprintsforlearningpreschool.com. The calendar will be updated monthly.

Volunteers:

We will have many opportunities for volunteers in and out of the classroom. For those who would like to participate in the classroom, we will have opportunities during our monthly parties or field trips, with occasional art projects and with classroom prep and scrapbooks. We will let you know in the monthly newsletters about these opportunities, or you can discuss them with the teachers.

Unfortunately, volunteers cannot bring other children into the classroom. If you prefer to do other volunteering, we will have other opportunities such as Library Parent, who will retrieve books on our topic from the library monthly and return them. You can sign up for one month at a time or for multiple months. We will also need one or two Scholastic Parent(s) who will be responsible for tallying up all of our orders each month and putting together the orders. This will be a yearly commitment. We will also have volunteer opportunities to bring in treats and things for parties, as well as, for preparing art and other activities.

All volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted on the parent information board in the lobby. Please remember what you have signed up for!

Birthdays:

Every child's birthday is very special and we would love the opportunity to celebrate it with them! We will do a special celebration as a class on your child's birthday (or close to it if he/she doesn't attend that day). A calendar is set up near the parent information board for you to mark down the day you would like us to celebrate your child's birthday. On this day, we ask that you bring a photo of your child during each year of their life. You will get them back at the end of class. You may wish to make a timeline with these pictures for us to look at. You are also welcome to bring in a treat for the class to share during the celebration. Examples are: muffins, fruit snacks, fruit platter, etc. Please be sure that there is at least enough for 24 children and that you have included a list of ingredients. We also ask that you bring healthier snacks for birthdays, instead of cupcakes and other sugary treats. Please advise teachers if you do not want your child eating particular foods, or if you do not wish for us to celebrate your child's birthday.

If at any time during the year you have a question or a concern, please let the teachers know. We can arrange a time to discuss the matter! Also, if at any time there is something that is affecting your child outside of school, that could affect his/her behaviour in class (e.g. moving to a new house, having a baby, etc), or something that you think we should be aware of, please let us know.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Don't forget to also check out our website at www.footprintsforlearningpreschool.com for more information on our programs, school calendar, classes, fees and monthly newsletters.

We look forward to an exciting year with you!

The Footprints Team