Web Site: www.valleycreativeminds.com
Email: www.valleycreativeminds.com



Enrollment Packet

2016/2017

School Year

Valley Creative Minds Preschool

2021 N Midtown Drive, Palmer, Alaska 99645 www.valleycreativeminds.com 907-982-7018

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Valley Creative Minds Preschool. We are excited to be involved with you and your child as they begin or continue their school journey.

If you choose to enroll your child in our program, you will have a dedicated experienced Preschool Teacher for your child. Prior to teaching preschool years ago in Idaho Falls, Idaho and Boise, Idaho; I spent more than a decade working with children of all ages.

Teaching children is one of my passions. I truly love to watch a child wonder, question, explore, create, and learn. I have created a program which helps children develop a strong literacy foundation, and love of learning in these critical early years, ensuring your students will enter school ready and confident to learn.

If you choose to enroll your child in the program, he/she will be exposed to a wide variety of high quality, developmentally appropriate activities. All of the activities are designed to increase your child's literacy and social development. Your child will be involved in large and small group activities, as well as individual instruction with the teacher. Our program has a maximum of 12 students per class to ensure that the needs of each individual child are met, and to prepare them to be successful not only in school but in life.

We know that children have an amazing capacity to learn - they just need an environment to encourage such growth. Our Preschool will give your child endless opportunities to expand their knowledge base and to be excited about learning.

In this packet you will find Creative Minds Preschool Policies and Procedures, as well as enrollment forms. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to talk to you.

Thank you again for your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Allison Ellibee Valley Creative Minds Preschool Director/Lead Teacher

Philosophy

Creative Minds Preschool believes that children learn using all their senses with every breath they take. We believe in developing the whole child and building a strong literacy foundation to ensure school readiness and life-long success.

Creative Minds Preschool program uses a wide variety of best practices in Early Childhood Education. We also utilize developmentally appropriate practices to create a learning environment that encourages every student to achieve his or her own potential. Literacy and social activities are purposefully fused into every aspect of the classroom in order to provide a varied and thorough learning experience. This program provides multiple pathways for learning using a combination of play, children's interests, and excitement in coming to school and involvement as active learners.

Creative Minds Preschool believes that young children need opportunities to challenge their minds and learn. We believe this occurs best when the child interacts with peers and adults in a social setting as they act upon their environment. The program employs a range of experience in large and small group settings, individual time with the teacher as well as independent time in the classroom to explore. This instructional design allows children to maximize their capacity for learning as well as ensure that their own learning style is being met. In addition, the program presents children with the opportunity to investigate old and new findings, enabling them to expand their academic and social skills in a safe environment.

The preschool day is specifically designed to foster literacy and social skills in a developmentally appropriate setting. This design will create a solid foundation of "school readiness" when the child enters Kindergarten.

Goals and Objectives

Goals

Creative Minds Preschool has four main goals.

- ♦ Increase literacy (reading, writing and oral) acquisition.
- ♦ Foster development of the whole child (cognitive, physical, social and emotional domains).
- ♦ Prepare children to transition comfortably into a school setting.
- ♦ Increase parental awareness, support and involvement in their student's academic and social life.

Objectives

Students will learn, develop, and master skills to the best of their potential in all areas of academic and social learning. The Preschool environment and teacher will help ensure student success in literacy development and domain development (cognitive, physical, social and emotional) with the following objectives:

Literacy Development Objectives

- ♦ Follow simple directions.
- ♦ Actively listen and participate during discussion and responds appropriately to questions.
- ♦ Encourage children to verbally express feelings and thoughts to peers and adults.
- ♦ Handle books appropriately.
- ♦ Identify some letters (name & sounds), numbers (counting & written), colors, and symbols.
- ♦ Recognize and write own name.
- ♦ Write letters, numbers, and symbols.

Domain Development Objectives

- ♦ Interact appropriately and be respectful of adults, peers, self, and school environment.
- ♦ Demonstrate independence and self-direction.
- ◆ Resolve conflicts appropriately.
- ◆ Participate in a variety of types of play.
- ♦ Engage in large motor movements (e.g., hopping, jumping) using basic safety rules.
- ♦ Engage in small motor movements (e.g., cutting, coloring).
- ♦ Grasp pencil and use one hand to write, draw, color, cut.
- ♦ Manipulate small objects effectively (e.g., buttons, zip coats, tie shoes).
- ♦ Share creations (e.g., art, show-in-tell) with others.

The Creative Minds Preschool goal of school transition will be met by regular attendance of the student and consistent routines in the classroom that mirror Kindergarten classrooms.

The Creative Minds Preschool goal concerning parental awareness, support and involvement will be met daily by communicating with parents on their student's achievements and struggles. In addition, the Preschool will provide handouts and reading materials on literacy and child development for parents. Conferences /workshops can be set up to further assist parents with concerns.

Activities

Your preschool child will be participating in activities and tasks such as the Following:

Calendar activities

Read-aloud

Shared reading (with Big Books and follow-up activities)

Partner and independent reading (looking through books)

Phonological awareness activities (playing with the sounds of language)

Oral language development activities

Writing activities

Small-group literacy and language activities

Literacy development activities (working independently with the teacher)

Print awareness activities (learning to look at letters and symbols)

Large and small-group math lessons

Social studies and science projects

Music and movement activities

Library and media center activities

Snack

Play

Art

Making friends with classmates

Play and learning centers

Writing Listening

Library Games/ Puzzles/Manipulatives

Science Sensory Table
Blocks Dramatic Play

Art

Daily Schedule

8:45/12:00 Students arrive, sign in, and engage in manipulative activities.

9:00/12:15 Circle Time

Whole-group gathering, daily message, calendar, discussion of the topic being studied, shared reading, overview of the day.

9:30/12:40 Activity Time (Learning Centers)

All centers will be opened for literacy-enriched play. At this time the teacher will work with small groups and one-on-one with students on literacy activities suited to their needs. In addition, the teacher will be taking authentic assessments on students to plan for future lessons.

10:20/1:30 Clean-up and Snack

10:50/2:00 Songs, Poems, and Movement

11:00/2:15 Literacy Enrichment Time

Whole-group shared reading, review of letters/numbers being studied followed by literacy activities such as patterning, categorizing, and letter searches.

11:25/2:25 Review of the day and prepare to go home.

Policies & Procedures

Classes & Ages of Children Served

Creative Minds Preschool will operate four sets of classes five days a week between the hours of 8:45am-2:30 pm. Our school calendar is coordinated with the Mat-Su School District.

We offer four classes, Red class will meet on Monday/Wednesday/Fridays (M/W/F)

mornings (8:45- 11:30) for children who are in pre-kinder year. Blue Class will meet on Monday/Wednesday/Friday (M/W/F) afternoon (11:45-2:30pm) for children who are in pre-kinder year. Yellow class will meet on Tuesday/Thursdays (T/Th) Mornings (9-11:30) for children who are 3 and 4 years of age, experiencing preschool for the first time. Green Class will meet Tuesday/ Thursday (T/Th) (12:00-2:30) for children who are 3 and 4 years of age, experiencing preschool for the first time.

Children who are three (by August 30th of that school year), four, five and six years of age are eligible to attend. Each class will have a Lead Teacher and a Teacher's Assistant/Volunteer during operation. The maximum class size is ten students for older classes and ten students for younger 1st year students.

Throughout the day, students will participate in literacy and other academics, play, movement, and snack activities (see enclosed Daily Schedule for details).

Children with Special Needs

Children with special needs are welcome at Creative Minds Preschool. We will make every effort to accommodate their needs and to ensure a positive learning experience for them. A pre-enrollment conference will be required to discuss the needs, concerns, and any adaptations necessary to the classroom and/or program.

Enrollment Requirements

A child will be considered for enrollment in Creative Minds Preschool once a completed Enrollment Packet and the non-refundable (\$75) Enrollment Fee is submitted. The Enrollment Packet includes: Contact Information, Emergency Information, copy of a current Physical Examination, Health Information, proof of Current Immunization Records, and a Student Interest Survey.

Regulations require that each child shall have an annual physical examination prior to attending any preschool classes. A copy of this examination must be kept in a confidential file at the Preschool. A copy of the student's immunization record is also necessary. Immunizations required include Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Rubella, Measles, Pertussis, Hepatitis A & B, and Varicella (the chicken pox vaccine).

Enrollment & Withdrawal Procedures

Enrollment will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis after receipt of the completed Enrollment Packet and one time Enrollment Fee. If the class fills, a Waiting List will be created. The Waiting List will also be kept on a first-come, first-served basis after receipt of the completed Enrollment Packet and Registration Fee.

When planning to withdraw a child from Creative Minds Preschool, the parent/guardian must notify the Preschool as soon as possible. Written notice of at least 30 days prior to removal from the class is required. Tuition will be pro-rated for early withdrawal of a child during the month with notice given to the Preschool prior to the beginning of that month. No tuition will be refunded for withdraw of a student without advance notification.

Non-discrimination Policy

Creative Minds Preschool does not discriminate against children and/or their parents/guardians on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, religion, national origin, physical handicap, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or age.

Tuition

Tuition is due the first class day (for your child) of each month. Cash and checks (made payable to Creative Minds Preschool) will be accepted as payment for tuition. Payments made after the 7th day of any school month will be considered late and a \$25 "Late Payment Fee" will be assessed. There is a \$25 fee for "Insufficient Funds" checks.

Tuition for all classes is based on a daily rate of \$26/\$27 per class. We have conveniently provided you with a flat rate to pay each month. The flat rate is determined by adding the total number of school days during the year, multiplying it by the daily rate and dividing that by the number of months of school. The 2015/2016 school year rates are as follows:

Tuesday/Thursday Class \$190 per month Mon/Wed/Fri classes \$280 per month

A one-time non-refundable Enrollment Fee of \$75 is due upon submitting the Enrollment Packet.

In the event that the school is closed due to Teacher illness or other circumstances of the Preschool Teacher, you will be credited the daily rate per day for missed days. If the Mat-Su School District closes the public schools for snow or bad weather, the Preschool will also be closed. You will not be credited for those days.

If you have two or more children enrolled in the Preschool at the same time, you will receive a discount of 20% on the least expensive child. This discount does not apply to the Enrollment Fee.

Drop off and Pick up

Parents/Guardians are responsible for dropping off and picking up their children (see enclosed Daily Schedule). For drop off, it is important for the parent/guardian to bring the child into the classroom, sign the child in, and make sure the teacher is aware that the child has arrived. For pick up, the parent/guardian must come into the classroom, sign the child out, and make sure the teacher is aware that the child is leaving. Students will only be released to adults who are listed on the Emergency Contact Sheet.

In order to protect each child, it is the policy of Creative Minds Preschool to refuse to release any student enrolled to a person other than those who are listed on the enrollment forms.

We reserve the right to ask any person for identification before releasing a student into their care. If at any time a person not listed on the enrollment form will be picking up a child, the Preschool teacher must be notified in advance.

Parent/Family Involvement

Parents/guardians and family members are welcome and encouraged to visit Creative Minds Preschool at any time. At Creative Minds we understand the connection between home and school is vital to the success of students. We ask that parents choose at least one day per month to volunteer in the classroom and be part of our student's day. A sign-up will be available year round. In addition, there are unlimited opportunities to volunteer in the school as well as assisting with projects at home.

All notices, schedules, meetings, and information will be posted on the Parent Bulletin Board located near the entryway of the school. Please check that bulletin board daily for messages or announcements. In addition, monthly Preschool Newsletters will be sent home informing parents and family members of happenings in the school and upcoming activities.

Parent/Legal Guardian Conferences

Optional conferences will be held one time during each school year (February). Parents/guardians are invited to attend conferences and may request additional conferences at any time. Parent/Teacher communication is constant and always available.

Illness

For the protection of all children and staff, children who are ill, or are showing signs of illness, will not be allowed in the Preschool. Signs of illness are fever (of 100+ degrees), excessive runny nose/cough, sore throat, puffy or red eyes, upset stomach, rash, lice, etc.

If a child should exhibit any signs of illness while at school, the parents/guardians will be called and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the child will be separated from the group and made as comfortable as possible until the parent/guardian arrives. If the illness is serious, the paramedics will be called, and then the parent/guardian will be contacted.

If your child will be absent due to illness, please contact the Preschool to let us know the nature of the illness. In the event that it is a communicable disease, a release note from a physician will be necessary for the child to return to school. Parents will be notified of any communicable diseases to which their child may have been exposed.

If a child needs to take any medication during school hours, the parent/guardian must fill out an Administration of Medication Authorization Form. All prescription medications must be in the original container labeled with the child's name, expiration date, dosage, and doctor's name and phone number. Vitamins, aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, cough drops, etc., are also considered medications and require a completed Administration of Medication Authorization Form to allow us to administer them to your child.

In order to prevent the spread of germs in the classroom, all staff and children will be asked to wash their hands after: handling secretions, nose blowing, using the bathroom, and before and after food preparation, service, and consumption.

Outdoor/Cold Weather Play

We will be going outside for recess/play; therefore outdoor playwear will be necessary at school. Please make sure that you child is properly clothed for outdoor weather when they arrive and leave the Preschool.

Bathroom Skills

All children must be potty trained and able to use the bathroom without assistance. If a child is struggling with a difficult fastener on his/her clothing, the Preschool Teacher will assist them.

School Rules

Preschool participants are expected to abide by elementary school rules and regulations in order to provide a consistent set of guidelines both for parents/guardians and children. The Preschool Staff will refer to the rules as "Being safe/Making safe choices" and "Being respectful".

The Preschool expects families to comply with the following quidelines:

Children will...

- be kind and courteous to themselves, their peers, adults and school property.
- · keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- · follow all directions and safety rules.
- · share materials.
- · be a good active listener.

Parents/Guardians will...

- · follow the example of the school staff when interacting with students.
- · model appropriate listening skills during class lessons.

- · be active in their child's school experience.
- · direct all questions and concerns to school staff.

Discipline

Creative Minds Preschool staff will model and reinforce positive behavior at all times.

Creative Minds Preschool discipline policy is as follows:

- 1. A verbal warning will be given to change and/or redirect unacceptable behavior.
- 2. Repeated unacceptable behavior will result in a "Time-out", and the child/children will be separated from the group.
- 3. If the behavior issues continue, a private conference with parents/guardians of the child/children with disciplinary problems will be held. During this time we will discuss concerns of their behavior, expectations and consequences of behavior, and a plan to ensure elements of consistency between school and home.
- 4. In cases of serious irresolvable discipline problems, the child/children may be suspended from the program.

Creative Minds Preschool reserves the right to terminate enrollment in the event of irresolvable behavior problems that affect the rights of the other students in the class.

Preschool Staff

The staff consists of the Preschool Director/Lead Teacher (s), and Parent/Family Member Volunteers. In the event that the preschool Lead Teacher is ill or unable to attend school that day, the Preschool will be closed. Phone calls and e-mails will be issued as early as possible to inform parents of any school closures.

Food

Students will participate in Snack Time each day. Each child should bring a healthful packed snack to each school day. The school will provide water, and will have snacks available to children who have forgotten or are unable to provide their own. We will have many opportunities to share snacks from home on special party days, and super kid days.

According to Municipality of Anchorage Child Care requirements, all snacks served must cover at least two Food Groups. Acceptable Food Groups are dairy, fruit/vegetables, grains and proteins. Beverages can count as one of the food groups such as milk or 100% apple or fruit juice.

Some snacks suggestions are: granola bars, fruit slices, cheese sticks, pretzels, fruit snacks, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, trail mix, crackers, pudding, etc. The Preschool has a small refrigerator to keep items cold and a small microwave to warm items up if necessary.

If your child is allergic to any type of food (that will be consumed during snack time), the parent/guardian will need to provide an alternative snack for that child.

Clothing

Students should be dressed in comfortable play clothes when they arrive at school each day. If we will be going outside, parents/guardians will be notified in advance if special clothing is required.

Each child must have a full change of clothes (sealed in a large zip lock bag) and indoor shoes to be kept at school. The change of clothes should include underwear, pants, a shirt, and socks.

All clothing, shoes, coats, hats, etc. must be marked with the student's name.

Field Trips

Field trips will occur throughout the school year. A child can participate in a Field Trip if the parent/guardian has signed the Permission Form. Field Trip Permission Forms will be sent home prior to the Field Trip.

We will use parent drivers on some of the Field Trips. Parents have the option of driving their own child to and from the Field Trips. If a parent can not drive and decides to allow their child to participate in the Field Trip, they must provide an appropriate car seat/booster seat for their child.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell will be held on Thursday/Friday of each week. A child may bring one or two items to show and talk to about with their classmates. These items can be toys, books, pictures, etc. The item(s) brought to school for Show and Tell will return home the same day.

Super Kid

For one week during the school year each child will be selected as the "Super Kid". The purpose of this week is to celebrate the child. On the first day of their week your child may bring a poster board with pictures of their family. In addition, each day of their week your child can bring in a show and tell item, favorite snack to share with classmates, family members to read a story to the class, etc. Parents will be notified in advance of their child's Super Kid week.

Insurance Coverage

Creative Minds Preschool carries liability insurance in accordance with State Licensing Regulations.

Confidentiality

Creative Minds Preschool will not disclose any information about the child/children or their families to any individual or group without the written permission of the parents/guardians, with the exception of any required/directives from State Licensing, Child Protective Services, and State Epidemiology.

Child Abuse Incident Report Procedure

Alaska State Law requires that all licensed preschool providers report any suspected child abuse or neglect the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family and Youth Services (550 W. 8th Ave, STE 300, Anchorage, AK 99501 – 907-269-3900) within 24 hours.

Complaint Procedures

If you have a complaint about the staff or program of the Preschool, please discuss your concern with Creative Minds Preschool Director/Lead Teacher. If your problem is not resolved using that procedure, you may contact the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, 801 West 10th Street, STE 200, Juneau, AK 99801-1894. Paul Sugar (907-465-4862) is the contact in this agency who oversees the licensing for Valley Creative Minds Preschool.

Smoking

Smoking will not be permitted at any time in the Creative Minds Preschool facility, or on the steps and sidewalk surrounding the Preschool.

Changes in Preschool Policy

Written notification will be given to all parents/guardians in the event the Preschool amends or adds to the current Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Class Supply List

The following are items that each child is asked to bring on or before the first day of school:

- 1 Backpack/or bag
- 2 boxes of facial tissues (such as Kleenex, Puffs, etc.)
- 1 pair of indoor shoes (non-lace) to be left at school
- 1 complete change of clothes (in a zip lock baq) to be left at school
- 6 rolls of paper towels
- 1 box of sandwich/snack/ or gallon size zip lock bags

ENROLLMENT APPLICATION 2016/2017

I would like to enroll my child in the following:			
Mon/Wed/Fri w/ Ms. Allison PM 8:45-11:30 Class (4, 5, & 6 year old children)			
Mon/Wed/Fri w/ Ms. Allison PM 12:00-2:45 Class (4, 5, & 6 year old children)			
Tues/Thurs w/ Ms. Summer AM 9	9:00-11:30 Class (3 & 4 year old children)		
class.	dded if the enrollment is high for the morning		
Please Note: A \$75 (non-refundable) Regis application to hold your spot.	tration fee must be submitted with this		
Printed Name of Child: Birthdate: Name your child likes to be called:			
Siblings enrolled at our Preschool: Contact Information for Parent(s) or Leg			
MOTHER	_ FATHER		
Home Address	Home Address		
Mailing Address	Mailing Address		
Home Phone	 _ Home Phone		
Work Phone Work Phone			
Cell PhoneCell Phone			
E-mail Address E-mail Address			
Authorized to pick child up? Authorized to pick child up?			
The following people are also authorized	to pick my/our child up from school:		
Name	Relationship		
me Relationship n Phone Wk Phone Cell Phone			
Can this person also be called in an emerg	ency situation? Yes No		
Name	Relationship		
Hm Phone Wk Phone_	Phone Wk Phone Cell Phone		
	ency situation? Yes No		
Name	Relationship		
Hm Phone Wk Phone_	Phone Wk Phone Cell Phone		
Can this person also be called in an emergency situation? Yes No			

Student Interest Survey

Child's Name:	Sex: Male _	Female
Child's Nickname:		
Brothers/Sisters of Child:		Age
		Age
Others Living in the Home:	Relationship:	
	Relationship:	
If the child is adopted, does he or		
Language(s) spoken at home:		
Is the child right-handed or left-ha	nded?	
Food allergies:		
Food preferences:		
Food dislikes:		
Favorite colors:		
Favorite books:		
Favorite movies/TV shows:		
Favorite indoor activities:		

Favorite outdoor activities:	
Child's current interests:	
Does your child have any special fears?	
	nat we should be aware of?
Areas of child's development that most plea	ase you:
	cern you?
Names of other children that your child pla	ys with regularly:
	Age
	Age
	Age
Are there any holidays or occasions that yo	ou do NOT celebrate?
(Printed Name)	(Relationship to Child)
(Signature)	(Date)

Health Information

A physical examination performed within the last year, as well as a copy of your child's immunizations, are required for admission to the Preschool. These documents may be submitted on the first day of school.

Primary Physician's Name:	Phone
Specialist Physician's Name (if any	v):Phone
What is the child seeing the Spec	ialist for?
Preferred Hospital:	Phone
Does your child have any problems	s in:
Vision	Hearing
peech Other:	
Communicable Diseases that your	child has had (give dates, if possible):
List any allergies (including allergi	ic reactions to medications):
If there is anything else that you this form.	feel we should be aware of, please feel free to add it to
Printed name of Parent or Legal G	Guardian:
Signature of Parent or Legal Guar	rdian:
Date	

CONSENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL OR SURGICAL CARE

•	creative Minds Preschool to give permission to any doctor, nurse or ergency medical or surgical care for
in the event that I ca effort will be made to understand my obligat	nnot be contacted immediately. It is understood that a conscientious locate me, or my spouse before any action will be taken. I ion to keep my preschool provider informed of my whereabouts. I will cessary medical or surgical care.
 Witness	Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian
Date:	Date:

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION BY AUTHORIZED STAFF

I authorize the administration of:	, to my child
by the preschool staff. The time and the cor	rect dosage of medication to be given is:
Dates to administer medication are from:	to
Parent's Signature:	Date:
Address:	
Home Phone:	Work Phone:

NOTE TO PARENTS: Alaska regulations prohibit the staff from giving medicine including aspirin and vitamins to a child unless the facility has written permission from the child's parent(s) who provide the medication with written instructions for its use. Prescription medicine must be in the bottle with a prescription that has not expired, the physician's name and the patient's name on the label.

RECORD OF ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Date	Time	Initials	Amount	Comments

WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM

I give permission for	to go on
Walking Field Trips in the vicinity of the so	chool. An example of a Walking Field Trip: walking
to the vacant lot adjacent to the Preschool	ol to collect leaves. This permission slip will be
kept in your child's file for repeated occas	ions. Parents will be notified in advance of all
Walking Field Trips.	
Printed Parent Name:	
Parent Signature:	Date:
Daytime Phone Number:	