

Nutrition

School of Enrichment serves one healthy snack during each class. Please ensure your child has eaten breakfast prior to coming to school. If your child is enrolled in an all day program, please send a well rounded lunch (protein, whole grain, dairy, fruit and vegetable) and labeled drink in an insulated lunch bag. Our snack menu includes whole grains, fruits, vegetables, dairy products and occasional meat products. We avoid processed foods whenever possible. We make efforts to eliminate any hydrogenated oils, colors, dyes, trans fats and corn syrups from your child's diet and will incorporate organic ingredients whenever possible. Organic cow's milk and water is always available. We regularly expose children to new foods and encourage "thank you bites" with great success, for hesitant eaters. We often involve students in preparing food related to our theme. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies or specific dietary needs. If you wish to communicate any information about your child's eating habits, please discuss their specific needs with us. We will introduce your child to fun, healthy and interesting foods prepared in a way that encourages interest in a healthy and mindful eating for a lifetime.

Special Needs

We will coordinate necessary accommodations for any child with special needs. Please let us know if your child has any special needs that require accommodations. In many cases, School of Enrichment can work closely with therapists and specialists both in the classroom and community accessing support, ongoing consultation, and supervision and/or planning.

Toilet Training

All students must be completely toilet trained and able to communicate their bathroom needs in order to attend School of Enrichment. Teachers will teach students skills such as buttoning pants and cleaning up after using the bathroom as they master independence. these are skills that will be mastered prior to admissions.

Screen Policy

We will not watch television or participate in screen time at School of Enrichment. We recognize that there may be an abundance of wonderful gains that can be made with technology at home with 1:1 supervision. If a specialist, classroom visitor or volunteer uses a screen for any reason parents will be notified.

Guidance Policy

Positive classroom behavior begins with adequate supervision, adaptation to the environment, and other strategies that prevent challenging behavior from occurring. At School of Enrichment, we believe that the majority of many acting out behaviors can be prevented with supervision, redirection, and praise for making positive choices.

Teachers will be within sight or hearing of children at all times. Monitor children's play for appropriate child to child interaction, intervening when necessary, and proactively guide children to make positive choices. Our teachers know individual temperaments, recognize each student's brain state before intervening, and monitor all students for frustration, anger, and

redirects when necessary. We help each child recognize and name their feelings, develop self-control, patience and respect for others. We teach students skills to communicate healthfully and respectfully.

THE RIGHTS WE HAVE IN THIS CLASSROOM

- I have a right to be treated with kindness in this room; this means that no one will laugh at me, tease or insult me.
- I have a right to be myself in this room; this means that no one will treat me unfairly because I am big or small, fast or slow, boy or girl.
- I have a right to feel safe in this room; this means that no one will threaten me, bully me, push me or destroy my property.
- I have a right to be heard in this room; this means that no one will yell or shout, and my opinion will be considered in any plan we make.
- I have a right to learn about myself in this room; this means that I will be free to express my feelings and opinions without being interrupted or criticized.

Parent Communication

Communication with families is an extremely important piece to your child's education. Conferences are held as needed in the spring and the staff will be available to schedule private conferences at the parent's request at any time. Teachers will make an effort to talk to parents regularly about how their child is doing in the classroom. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns. School of Enrichment will provide regular announcements via email and/or in your parent folder. A monthly newsletter will be distributed to all parents regarding the upcoming curriculum and programs.

It is School of Enrichment's policy that every family has the opportunity to their goals and ideas related to their child's education and development. Initial information is collected in the Classroom Enrollment Application. This comprehensive document requests detailed information about the child and family including developmental history, interests, preferences, fears, changes at home, family members, sleep patterns, nutrition, and routines. School of Enrichment receives ongoing feedback in the following formats including but not limited to annual anonymous surveys, parent meetings, email and verbal communication. Surveys and parent meetings are scheduled as needed.

School of Enrichment completes individual educational assessments each fall and spring. The assessments allow us to determine areas of strengths and topics to focus on throughout the school year. Upon request, School of Enrichment can provide families with a detailed progress report with information specific to academics, behavior and social emotional development. If School of Enrichment has an idea to enhance the wellbeing and/or development of a student or if a family has concerns or questions and requests support, the School of Enrichment team schedules a conference with the student's family. Based on the specific concern or idea, School of Enrichment may offer specific parenting and child development information or we may refer a family to parenting education resources, parenting classes or a Licensed Clinical Social Worker or Play Therapist. If there are any concerns of delayed development or learning differences, School of Enrichment directly supports the family in accessing and connecting to the resources available in our community that can facilitate supports with learning differences or the social emotional development of the child. School of Enrichment has referrals on how to access this information. Should the need for an interpreter arise, School of Enrichment will access someone to provide this service.

Parent Volunteers

We welcome and encourage all parents to spend time in and contribute to our program. If you have special skill or hobby, please let the school know. Please talk with us about the best time and way to become involved.

School of Enrichment Goals

- School of Enrichment emphasizes on individualized education, social emotional development, experiential learning, academics, and outdoor recreation; we don't simply develop the mind. We develop character. Personality. Potential. Your pride is our joy. It's all to prepare students for success in life.
- To provide a warm and nurturing environment where the young child's learning can thrive through play, activities of their choice and directed activities while maintaining close proximity and asking open ended questions. Our teachers are on the floor or at the tables with our students validating feelings, using positive comments and feedback to encourage children's interests.
- Play. Kids learn by playing.
- To stimulate the young child's learning with activities in areas of reading and math readiness, art, music, language, motor skills, culture and ethics.
- To encourage the self-esteem of the young child through respect of cultural and ethnic diversity with the support of teacher, class, and school.
- To create a love of learning and develop a life-long learner who challenges himself/herself daily for future school and life success.
- Life is all about balance and that balance begins at School of Enrichment. We offer a well-rounded balance of child directed and teacher guided activities, routine, small group activities and choices for our students.
- Scaffolding is the bridge to connect any gaps in learning. Scaffolding refers to a variety of instructional techniques used to move students progressively toward stronger understanding and, ultimately, greater independence in the learning process. The term itself offers the relevant descriptive metaphor: teachers provide successive levels of temporary support that help students reach higher levels of comprehension and skill acquisition that they would not be able to achieve without assistance. Like physical scaffolding, the supportive strategies are incrementally removed when they are no longer needed, and the teacher gradually shifts more responsibility over the learning process to the student. Scaffolding allows for a deeper level of learning and helps build connections until a student can use scaffold type thinking autonomously. Not only do these techniques build upon the social emotional development of a child but these approaches build early language skills, increased vocabulary and reading skills.

- Repetition is a natural way of learning. The technique *repetition* involves simply doing some other technique over again. This repetition helps to strengthen and reinforce the impact of the prior technique, hopefully to achieve its original desired effect. Extension offers additional experiences that increasingly become more complex than the baseline concept. Extension lessons offer an opportunity for further exploration while provoking or sparking new enthusiasm or interest in the topic.
- Self-talk is simply talking about what we are doing. Self-talk can be used to verbalize every day activities and when used more strategically to model positive messages to self, shaping cognitive connections and to encourage a healthy inner voice while stimulating related questions and beliefs. With parallel-talk, the adult uses sentences to talk about the child, what they are doing, what they are seeing, label the feeling or action they are doing.
- We use open-ended questions while joining children on the floor or at the table during play. We focus on their interests, acknowledge and validate their feelings, encourage their talk and play and maintain a close distance with each student at all times. We offer positive and constructive feedback with repetition and ask questions to extend their own thinking and ideas using self-talk and parallel talk.

Explorative Classrooms

Our environment is built for exploration and discovery. We are continually redesigning the environment to stimulate the developmental needs of children and promote growth in the areas of fine motor, gross motor, cognitive, imaginative, language, literacy, social and emotional, and speech and language development. Children are given opportunities to explore, discover, problem solve, and build a strong foundation for future learning experiences.

Integrative Learning Curriculum

Creativity is the core of our curriculum. The ability to create, to think divergently and to problem solve are all important skills necessary for success in our world today and the world of tomorrow. We provide activities that integrate practical skills and imagination. We integrate the teaching of reading readiness, language arts, math and science with the areas of art, music, drama and movement.

We use a thematic approach in planning our activities. We, along with the students, choose themes or units of study and center our activities based on those themes. Our activities are offered at a variety of levels so that children can choose an activity that is developmentally appropriate for them. Choice is an important part of our program. Children are encouraged to participate in all activities but they are able to do them at their level and in the amount of time they need.

Language and Literacy Programs

School of Enrichment constructs a learning community environment that encompasses a variety of diverse ages within our classrooms. Our optimal teacher and child ratio (1:6) enables our professional staff to provide your child with the benefits of small group learning experiences. School of Enrichment includes the following programs based on your child's individual learning style, interest, and readiness.