

Busy Bee's Classroom Handbook



Welcome to the Busy Bee Classroom!

Hello Families,

Thank you for letting me be a part of your child's pre-school experience. My name is Kim Rivoli and I am the teacher in the Busy Bee classroom. I am very excited about the year ahead and about getting to know you and your child.

First let me tell you a bit about myself. I have my Associates degree in Early Childhood Education from Clark College and have 35 years experience teaching young children. I have been here at Little Acorn Preschool and Kindergarten for 23 years. I previously spent time teaching the three year-olds in the Star Class before taking the Busy Bee class.

I am married and my husband Rob and I have three kids. Travis is 36 is married, his wife's name is Larissa, Derek is 34 and his wife is named Jess and our daughter Nicole, is 28. We are proud Grandparents! Our son Travis and his wife have three boys, Paxton who is 12, Oliver who is 9 years old and Rhett who is 3, Derek and his wife also have a boy Parker, who is turning 1 year old in September! I'll try not to do too much bragging, but it really is amazing being a Nana! We live in Ridgefield on a few acres and have a dog named Rosie and a black lab named Boomer. We like to camp in our RV and spend time with family and friends.

I have found that when parents are positive about Pre-school and let their child know that school is great, the child feels good about coming to class. That makes learning and exploring a wonderful experience. Preschoolers are full of emotions and big feels! We respect and acknowledge all feelings in the Busy bee class and help kids regulate through them.

I encourage you to ask questions or let me know of your concerns. If there is something you can tell me about your child that will help me get to know them or make them feel more comfortable, please let me know.

I am ready to get started and hope you and your child are ready for a school year full of learning and exploring.

Teacher Kim

GOAL

To provide a safe, loving atmosphere where children can build self-esteem, understand their feelings and how to express them, learn at their own developmental pace, explore their world, learn to be a problem solver ,make friends and know that school is great!

PHILOSOPHY

I believe that when children play, they are learning. I have found that figuring out how to problem solve builds self esteem. I also feel that each child is an individual and will learn and grow at their own pace and need to be respected for that.

SICKNESS

Please keep your child at home if they have any symptoms listed in the Little Acorn Preschool & Kindergarten Parent Handbook. . I appreciate calls or emails from parents if your child will not be at school that day. You may call the school and leave a message. We know its hard to miss a day of school, but if kids aren't feeling up to participating in our classroom activities or could get others sick we really need them to stay at home until they're well.

CURRICULUM

Here at Little Acorn we use an "Emergent Curriculum". This basically means that we take the children's lead when choosing what to learn about. Here in the Busy Bee classroom we will start out the school year with a few seasonal themes and then as the children and I get to know each other we will start exploring to find out what their interests are. I have found that children get excited about learning when they can relate it to their own world. Of course, we will be incorporating the skills needed for kindergarten readiness in all aspects of our classroom activities.

WORK TIME

We will have a block of teacher directed work time each day. We break kids into small groups and rotate through activities. We have found this to be helpful to providing more individual attention to kids. Grouping readiness levels together makes it easier to challenge those that need more and to focus on skills that need practice. Let us know if you have any questions on this part of our day.

READING READINESS

Many kids are reading or beginning to read as they enter our classroom. We will challenge kids on their individual levels of readiness as we move through the year. Sometime in the late spring, we will start weekly reading groups based on their readiness. This is a great way to introduce something that they will encounter when they get to Kindergarten.

GUIDANCE

We will not be using a "time out" in our classroom. When conflicts arise I like to let the children try and work things out. If they need some help we will step in and offer some ideas on working together to find a solution. I encourage kind and respectful behavior and praise those who use words to resolve conflicts.

CLOTHES

We will offer painting projects daily and go outside whenever possible. Please dress your child in clothes that can get dirty and are weather appropriate. Shoes that tie-on or Velcro-on are best. Kids of this age generally should be able to put on their own jacket or coat, please send them in one that they can take care of themselves. **All coats should have your child's name in them!** It is a good idea to have your child bring a backpack to school as well. Please leave an extra change of clothes at school for your child, send them in the large ziplock bag (you received at meet and greet) with their name on it, we will keep these at school.

FIELD TRIPS

We will be going on a trip to the Pumpkin patch in October. Additional field trips are a possibility. Transportation and supervision of your child for a fieldtrip is the responsibility of the parent. I will try my best to give plenty of notice about upcoming time/days.

PARTIES

Children love to have a party! You may bring treats to celebrate your child's birthday. Just let me know in advance. Please no piñatas! A mini cupcake to celebrate the day seems to be easiest for us. We also request that individual birthday party invitations not be delivered via cubby boxes here at school.

We will also have several other Special occasion parties throughout the school year. Watch the weekly newsletters for info as it becomes available.

SHARING

We won't be having a scheduled "sharing" day or time in our class. I suggest leaving toys at home. Here at school they could get lost or broken. We do "Letter sharing bags" to give kids a chance to talk in front of the group and build letter awareness. Watch for more on this the after the first few weeks of school.

CUBBY BOXES

Each child has a cubby box in the hallway with their name on it. This is where papers to go home will be kept until the end of the day. We are having the kids "Pack up" their backpacks before we dismiss them at the end of class. This is a great skill for building independence and one they will need in Kindergarten. Everyone should have a backpack big enough to fit a large sheet of unfolded paper inside. Small backpacks are super cute , but are frustrating to get everything inside! Practicing at home before school begins is helpful.

DROP OFF/ PICK UP

School begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. for morning class. I will be opening the door at 8:55 to ease some of the crowding in the hallway. Please sign your child in each day on the iPad in the hallway. We ask that you have your child use the bathroom before coming into class. We will open the door and welcome everyone in!

It is very important to pick up your child on time. Morning class is over at 12:00. I will also be opening the door at 11:55 to get everyone picked up and on your way. A parent/guardian needs to be at the classroom door to get their child. When it. Opens. Children can become anxious and worried when waiting for a parent who is late. There is also a late fee charged if your child has not been picked up 5 minutes after class has ended. The late fee charge is \$1.00 per minute and is to be paid upon arrival to the Teacher.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

We will have a "meet and greet" conference before school starts.

During conference time we will get to know your family and give you the chance to ask questions and talk about expectations for the school year. In January you'll have a chance for another conference to talk about readiness for Kindergarten and your child's progress. At any time you need to discuss your child or have concerns, I am always available. I value your input and would like to resolve any issues as soon as possible. Contacting me through the Parent square app is the fastest way or you can email me (Busybee@littleacornpreschool.com) or catch me with a quick question before or after class. Texting is another way to contact me if that works too. You may also call the school and leave a message for me and I will return your call promptly.

CLASSROOM LIBRARY

In our classroom the kids have an opportunity to borrow a book from the classroom bookshelf. They can only choose one book at a time and they must return the book to borrow another. I have book bags available for you to take/bring back the books. This helps introduce responsibility and how to take care of books. Reading to your child each day is the best way to ensure pre-reading/ reading readiness . Please let me know if you would prefer your child not participate in this classroom activity. This will be started around the second or third week of school.

Parent Volunteering

Each Family is asked to do some volunteering to support our school. This is a great way to build community and demonstrate to your child that their school is important to your family. Some possible ways to help could be; making play dough for the class, taking home dress up clothes to wash, take home activity prep(cutting), cleaning classroom toys, wiping down the playroom and donating snack or supplies. There are some chances to volunteer in the classroom as well, everyone who does must be background checked and have filled out the volunteer form prior to spending time in the classroom.

*As a family you may opt out of this commitment by donating \$150 per child.

Weekly newsletter

I will be posting a weekly classroom newsletter to our school App called "Parent Squared". This newsletter is full of things that are happening in our room and at our school. The best way to keep up to date on classroom things is through the parent squared app. In the newsletter post I will talk about what we have been doing in class, post some pictures of activities and update you on important events. I have found that it is good to get into the habit of being well informed about your child's classroom activities.

Bike Helmets

Here at our school we require that kids who ride the balance bikes or scooters on the playground wear bike helmets. If your child would like to join in this activity during play time they must bring their own helmet from home that fits them correctly. Please put your child's name in it. They can be left here at school on the coat rack outside the classroom.

Classroom supplies

We don't have a list of supplies that each child will need, but would love donations of frequently used items such as: glue sticks, sharpie markers, dry erase markers, gallon ziplock bags, clear packing tape, baby wipes and supplies for the classroom pet. We may also mention in the weekly newsletter of items that are a need in the classroom. Thanks in advance for your support!

Classroom pet- The Busy Bee Class has a hamster named Yoda for our classroom pet. We talk about caring for him, appropriate ways to treat him and that he relies on us to keep him safe and happy. There will be an opportunity to take him home for a weekend visit if this is something your family feels comfortable with. Watch for a sign up sheet during the second or third week of school.

Busy Bee Daily schedule

Kids need a routine and to know what comes next. Here in our classroom we will be following a daily schedule that will help establish consistency. Here is a sample of what our schedule may look like. As we get to know kids and what works best it may change. As you can see, being on time to class is important to getting the most out of our time together. Your help with this is most appreciated!

***Morning**

9:00.....Classroom opens/welcome!

9:00-9:10.....sign-in, hang up name card, find a seat for morning group time.

9:10-9:20.....group time/Morning meeting

9:20-9:45..... work time (Teacher directed)

9:45-10:30.....free choice play

10:30..... Clean-up

10:35-10:45.....Wash for snack/Bathroom break

10:45-11:05..... Snack

11:00-11:10.....Quiet book time

11:10-11:35.....Outside play time

11:35-11:50.....Story time/group game or movement

11:50-12:00.....stickers/stamps /bookbags

12:00.....Pre-school over/dismissal and door opens

***subject to change as we take the lead of the children**

Teacher contact info:

Kim:

cell# 360-600-2875

Email Busybee@littleacornpreschool.com

Preschool office 360-693-5614

Website littleacornpreschool.com