

Little Acorn Kindergarten Parent Handbook



Welcome to Kindergarten!!!!

Keri Knight:

Welcome!! I am thrilled to meet you and look forward to spending a spectacular school year together.

My name is Keri Knight and I am the Kindergarten teacher at Little Acorn. I am so excited about getting to know each one of you and your families. Here's a little bit of information to help you get to know me.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism & Public Relations and a Masters Degree in Teaching. I hold my teaching license in Washington State. I have been working with children of all ages in various settings for years. I feel very privileged to work at Little Acorn and to be surrounded by wonderful students, families, and teachers.

I am married to my wonderful husband Darin and we have two beautiful daughters Julia, who is a graduate of Little Acorn and Lauren, who currently attends Little Acorn. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, playing soccer, running, traveling and entertaining with my family and friends.

As your son/daughter's Kindergarten teacher for the 2010/11 year, I am committed to providing a safe, inviting and positive learning environment for your child. I have an open door policy and welcome parent involvement in and around the classroom. Together we are a partnership in teaching and learning.

Communication is a key part of your student's learning so please feel free to email (kerimknight@hotmail.com) or call me (503-705-6045) with any questions or concerns you may have. I am also available before class or by special arrangement.

Caroline Fields:

Caroline is our kindergarten's wonderful staff assistant. Caroline is beginning her thirteenth year at Little Acorn (and 7th year in the Kindergarten class!) Caroline is a dedicated teammate with a bright, cheerful personality and caring demeanor. She has a daughter who is beginning her junior year of high school, a five year old son who recently graduated from Little Acorn Preschool, and an infant son. Caroline is an invaluable asset to this program and school. I am so excited and fortunate to have her as my teammate. Caroline has a strong foundation in early childhood education (ECE) and regularly takes classes in ECE at Clark College in addition to the in-service opportunities provided to us by LAPS&K.

Curriculum:

In defining our program's curriculum, we follow Washington State's Essential Academic Learning Requirements. These requirements were designed to raise the academic standards and give clear learning goals. We will be using the kindergarten frameworks (content guidelines) for Reading, Writing and Math as our year end goals. A summary of the skills and strategies in each area are below:

READING:

Understand that pictures and text convey meaning.
Show awareness of print in the environment.
Know and use letters and their sounds to predict and confirm text.
Recognize some words in different contexts.
Understand the way we read affects the meaning.
Reread a range of books and explore new ones.

WRITING:

Participate in group writing activities.
Demonstrate an awareness of directionality (left to right, top to bottom)
Write the letters of the alphabet, uppercase and lowercase.
Describe drawings in a meaningful way.

MATH:

Recognize, count, compare, and order numbers or objects to 31.
Solve simple addition and subtraction problems using concrete models.
Measure objects with a variety of nonstandard units.
Compare, describe, and classify 2D and 3D geometric figures.
Discriminate between impossible, probable, and certain events in a real world context.
Answer questions by collecting and sorting data.
Describe and create patterns.

In the area of *SCIENCE*, we will cover Seasons, Weather, Living and Nonliving, Five Senses, and areas of interests to the children. In the area of *SOCIAL STUDIES* we will cover Respect, Communities and Classroom responsibilities, and Map readiness skills.

As the Kindergarten teacher, I believe my job is to plan and facilitate interesting topics, creative projects, and developmentally appropriate activities within a safe and nurturing learning environment. I believe all children are natural learners with something unique to offer a classroom community. My goal is to help prepare your child to be a successful lifelong learner. School should be fun and we want this to be a memorable year for each and every student! With goals as guidelines, a developmentally appropriate classroom, and parental support, I believe your little ones will embrace the joy of learning and gain the foundation they will utilize in their educational endeavors.

Readiness Skills

All Kindergarten students are evaluated individually in the fall to determine their strength in each of the following readiness skills. The Kindergarten teacher will then work with the student on any skills that the student has not mastered.

The following skills will be evaluated:

- * The student can say letter names when presented in random order (both capital and small letters.)
- * The student can pronounce the sounds made by each consonant when presented in random order.
- * The student can count to at least 25 and, eventually, 100.
- * The student can name numerals (1 to 20) when presented in random order.
- * The student can identify the following shapes: circle, square, triangle, oval, rectangle, and rhombus(diamond.)
- * The student can match identical shapes.
- * The student can draw an X, circle and triangle.
- * The student can match objects of the same color.
- * The student can name each of the following colors: red, blue, orange, green, yellow, purple, pink, brown, black, and gray.
- * The student can read each of the above color words.
- * The student can discriminate between rhyming and non-rhyming words.
- * The student demonstrates an understanding of position words (in back of, in front of, beside, under and over.)
- * The student can identify what happened first, next and last in a simple story.
- * The student can identify which picture does not belong with the other pictures in a group (classification.)
- * The student can tell their whole name, birthdate, address, phone number and parent's name.
- * The student can write their first and last name. The name should eventually be written with a capital and followed by lower case letters.

Kindergarten Daily Schedule

9:00 am to 12:00



9:00 - 9:15 Greeting, Helper Jobs, Attendance, Morning Activity (survey, graphs, question of the day, worksheets, independent reading, etc.)

9:15 - 9:35 Circle Time: Calendar, Daily Message, Shared reading/writing(book, song, poem, play, chant etc.) Introduce new material.

9:35 - 10:45 Learning centers, One-on-one with teachers
(guided reading, writing, math, art.)

10:45 - 11:15 Choice time

11:30 Snack Time

11:40 - 12:00 Recess and Preparing for home.

****On Fridays, circle time is done in Spanish.****

ABC's of Kindergarten from Teacher Keri

A: Attendance: On-time, regular attendance is essential for academic and social growth. Our class begins at 9:00am and lets out at 12:00.

Absences: If your child is absent, please call the school (360)693-5614 or send us an e-mail kerimknight@hotmail.com. If you know ahead of time that your student will not be in class for a reason other than illness, please let me know and I'd be happy to put together work will be completing those days.

B: Backpacks: It is important that students have a backpack or tote bag for school. Be sure to check your child's backpack daily for student work and important notices. Remove everything daily and return homework folders and any important messages for us.

Bike helmets: Children are required to bring their bike helmet to school if they wish to use the tricycles during recess time. LAPS&K is adhering to the Vancouver city bicycle helmet law. Please make sure your child's helmet is properly fitted and that it is labeled with their name on the inside.

Birthdays: Birthdays are fun for Kindergartener to celebrate in the classroom. The child gets a crown to wear and take home. The class sings "Happy Birthday" to the birthday child. If you want to add to the celebration, I invite you to bring treats for the entire class. Please give us (24) hours notice so we can plan some extra time for this special celebration. Please, please, please do not send birthday party invitations to school unless all children in the class will be invited. Kindergarteners are very observant and they do notice these things.

C: Clothing: Please dress your child appropriately for the weather conditions as we will plan to go out as often as possible. Dressing in layers allows children to stay comfortable regardless of what we are doing. Please label all clothing, backpacks, and personal items with your child's name. We are not allowed to apply sunscreen so please do so prior to bringing your child to school when this is appropriate.

Communication: Please feel free to leave me a message in the office or email me at kerimknight@hotmail.com.

Conferences: Little Acorn Preschool & Kindergarten hold parent- teacher conferences in the fall.

D: Dismissal: Our class ends at 12:00. Please wait outside until the door is opened and your child is released to you. We are busy collecting our belongings and delivering parting messages before the door opens. ☺

E: Emergency Information: Please make sure to fill out all the required emergency information cards and forms at the beginning of the school year. If any contact information changes throughout the year, please let us know so we can make the proper corrections.

F: *Field Trips:* School policy requires that parents provide transportation for their own child. Field trips are held approximately every other month. You will be notified about field trips at least two weeks in advance.

G: *Growth:* Kindergarten is a year where significant social, emotional and academic growth is achieved. There is a large range of "normal" in Kindergarten. Some children are ready to master concepts earlier in the year than others. It is my job to differentiate instruction so that all children will reach their own personal learning potential.

H: *Homework:* The homework that is given to the children is intended to enrich the learning that has taken place in the classroom. Homework will go home on Monday and be collected on Friday. Your child can turn their homework in anytime that week for credit. Please make sure it is complete with their name and is done in pencil (unless otherwise noted.)

Homework Folders: Homework will be sent home in personalized homework folders. Students are responsible for these folders. For each completed homework assignment, students will receive a sticker. After receiving (5) stickers students will have the opportunity to select something from the treasure chest.

I: *Illness:* Please notify the school if your child is ill and unable to attend. Children must be fever, vomit, or diarrhea free for 48 hours before returning to school. Coming to school every day that a child is healthy is as important in Kindergarten as of utmost importance. Good patterns for future school success are set in Kindergarten.

J: *Jobs:* Students will have weekly jobs in the classroom to enhance our community. Jobs include things like: weather helper, calendar helper, snack helper, class room inspector, etc. These jobs not only help our classroom run smoothly but also give students a sense of pride as they are responsible for specific duties.

K: *Kindness:* This is one of the most important things to help keep our classroom going. I don't tolerate bullying of any kind. It is so important for kids to learn kindness at this age to be able to carry it throughout their lives.

L: *Late Charges:* It is important to pick children up on time to ensure a sense of security for them. There is a five minute grace period after which we charge \$1.00 a minute for each minute you are late.

Label: Please mark all backpacks and removable clothing with your child's first and last name. There are many instances where more than one student have similar looking items and having names on items helps us locate the correct owner.

Lost and Found: Misplaced items that are not labeled will be placed in our Lost and Found located in Maria's office.

M: Medication: In order for medication to be given at school, we need a signed permission slip from the parents and a signed doctor's order indicating the drug name, dose, time, method of administration, and duration of treatment. Possible side effects should also be indicated on the permission slip. Your child's medication must be clearly labeled.

N: Newsletters: Weekly class newsletters will be distributed via e-mail as well as posted on the LAP&K website once a week. In addition, a monthly school newsletter & snack calendar will be available on-line.

O: Outside: We will be going outside for free choice time as much as possible. Please help keep your child comfortable by sending them with the appropriate clothing and comfy shoes that are easy and safe to play in.

P: Progress Reports: Formal progress reports will be sent home twice a year: Fall and Spring.

Q: Questions: If at any time you have questions about anything going on in the classroom, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be glad to talk with you! kerimknight@hotmail.com or (503)705-6045

R: Reading: One of the best ways to help your child learn is to read to them. Sharing stories and teaching your child to enjoy the activity of reading is a life-long gift. Whether it is a preset bed-time story or a spontaneous shared book... every word shared is beneficial!

Respect: One of our most important classroom guidelines is having and showing respect for oneself, classmates, teachers and property. Respectful behaviors help in building a safe, fun learning environment.

S: Sign-In/Out: Please use the clipboard outside our door to sign your child in and out each day. This gives us a record of who is here and serves as an attendance sheet in case of emergency.

Snacks: The school will provide a light healthy snack daily. Please let us know of any food allergies your child has.

T: Transportation: A note is required for any changes in your child's authorized ride/pick-up procedure.

Toys: Please help your child remember that toys belong at home. Toys can be distracting during our precious learning time. Thank you!!

U: Uniqueness: We value and promote each child's individualism and uniqueness.

V: Visitors: Parents are always welcome to visit the classroom!!! Please sign-in and pick up a Visitor's badge in the preschool office.

Volunteering: LAPSCK requires 2 hours per year of parent volunteer time per child. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways including bringing home production materials to prep for special projects, participating in carnival, and playground clean-up. A \$100 donation can be made to LAPSCK in lieu of volunteering.

W: *Website:* All class newsletters, school newsletters, and monthly snack calendars can be found on the Little Acorn website: www.littleacornpreschool.com Inclement weather information will also be posted when relevant.

X: *X-tra TLC:* Please let me know if something out of the ordinary is going on so I can be aware and give your child a little more TLC if needed.

Y: *You:* You are a very important part of your child's education. Please stay informed and talk with your child everyday about school. AND contact me with any questions or concerns!

Z: *zzzzzzz's:* Children need a good night sleep to be prepared for the day ahead. Tired children often have a difficult time concentrating and retaining the information presented to them. Please make sure your child gets plenty of sleep to give them the energy they need to have a productive day.

