

# Little VICTORIES

FLEXIBLE CHILD CENTER  
& PRESCHOOL

## Welcome to the Dragonflies Room





Dear Families,

Welcome to the Delightful Dragonflies Room, the Preschool program here at Little Victories! We have put this packet of information together to inform you a little about our classroom, expectations and curriculum. We feel honored and excited to work with your child and to be given the opportunity to discover their unique personality, strengths and challenges. The Preschool Classroom is set up in centers with age appropriate materials for all children to be able to explore, learn and most importantly have FUN! Our curriculum is set up in thematic units that connect with all developmental learning areas, so that the children are able to grasp the theme through whichever way your child learns best! We believe it is important to partner with you in the process of nurturing your child's growth and development. If you ever, for any reason, have a question or concern regarding your child, please do not hesitate to talk to us. We are always happy to listen and problem solve with you to make your child's pre-school experience the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Katie, Jamie and Tamara

### **General Little Victories Information**

- 1. Drop Off and Pick Up:** For the safety and well-being of all children and staff, *it is absolutely essential that at Drop Off and Pick Up times parents check-in with a teacher in the room.* Not only does it let us know who is coming and going but it also gives us an opportunity to pass along vital information (i.e. your child didn't sleep well, a pet died, excited about a visit from grandparents, will be picked up early or by another person....). We also cannot stress enough how unsafe it is to simply drop your child off in our door without staff knowledge. In times of emergency, we cannot account for your child if we have no knowledge of them being at school. Please, at the very least make eye contact with a classroom teacher to let us know your child has arrived or is going home.
- 2. Extra Clothes:** Kids are kids and the best way to be a kid is to just get in there and explore things! Please dress your child in clothes that are meant to get dirty. We will *never* exclude a child from an activity because they may get dirty and you can expect to see some really good stains coming home! We like to do messy, wet, and creative activities during art, science and outdoor play and ask that you ***have at least one complete set of clothes at school*** to change into in case we get a little too messy, wet or creative. This consists of underwear, socks, pants/shorts and a shirt.
- 3. Summertime Reminders:** Due to state licensing guidelines, we are only allowed to apply sun block to children who have provided their own from home. Please bring a bottle of *sun block* to keep at school. We also would like to have children wear *sturdy shoes* that allows for safe running, climbing and riding. Flip-flops do not provide adequate support for young feet and make it extremely difficult to run and climb. Sandals that buckle and tennis shoes are much better for young children and as an added bonus, will keep those feet much more clean!! And one last note for our young girls who look so adorable in their sundresses....*a pair of shorts under those dresses* not only prevents us all from seeing your undies but also protects against hot slides and riding toys.

4. **Wintertime Reminders:** During the colder months, we enjoy exploring outside and enjoying all that the snow has to offer! If the temperature is above 0° with wind chill, we will adhere to our outside schedule times. Please make sure to bring boots, snow pants, mittens (not knit as they get wet) and hats. Because many children have similar clothing, we ask that you **PLEASE LABEL ALL OUTDOOR CLOTHING**.

## Dragonflies Information

1. **Naptime Blanket:** Having a blanket to snuggle with makes children feel more relaxed and calm, which means that they can fall asleep more easily. Also, our room heats up when we are all moving and playing but our room cools down when all those little bodies are sleeping. A blanket keeps the chills away. Blankets should fit in the top section of your child's cubby and should be easy for them to fold and store by themselves. We also ask that blankets be taken home on your last day of the week for washing and returned to school when your child next attends. This helps us all stay healthy!
2. **Art Files:** Each child has an art file located outside the classroom door. We fill those folders with all of the masterpieces your child makes and wants to bring home. Children create these with great pride and want to share that with you. Take the art home, talk about it, ask your child to select a piece or two to save and recycle the rest when they are in bed! We will also use these files as a form of communication to parents so please check them everyday.
3. **Curriculum and How Children Learn:** As is stated in Little Victories curriculum overview statement: *Little Victories uses Developmentally Appropriate Practices set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in developing their theme based curriculum. Our Lead Staff ensures that your child will be given the opportunity to learn and grow using all of their five developmental areas: Physical, Emotional, Cognitive, Social and Creative.* We develop our thematic curriculum based on seasonal themes and the interests of the children. While we create a lesson plan each week, we are also acutely in-tuned with the teachable moments and remain flexible and open to change. We share the philosophy that young children learn best through Play as is supported in extensive research:
  - enhances a child's language development (Garvey, 1974)
  - encourages creativity and problem solving (Dansky, 1980)
  - provides a context through which the child develops representational thought, an essential foundation for reading, mathematics and science (Vygotsky, in J.S. Bruner, A. Jolly, & K. Sylva {Eds.}).
  - develops higher motivation to learn and develops higher self-esteem (Weininger, 1994)
  - is an integral part of a child's being. It is the "business" of childhood, and it has a unique and vital role in the whole education process. (Weininger, 1994)

(Taken from <http://www.cayc.ca/Philosophy.html>)

If you have any questions regarding curriculum and learning, we encourage you to speak with us and to check out the NAEYC website at [naeyc.org](http://naeyc.org).

# Preschool Weekly Lesson Plan

## Theme: Hibernation-Winter's On Its Way

### Week of: Nov.28<sup>th</sup> Dec.2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Key Experiences and Outcomes

- To learn about animals that hibernate for the winter
- To observe changes in our environment as winter begins

#### Math Activities

- Cave and bear number match
- Bear counters

#### Science Activities

- Temperature  
-Will the water freeze?

#### Group Time (Songs, Fingerplays, Lang. Arts, Books)

- Group Graph: Who sleeps in a cave?
- Books: Time To Sleep, Bear Snores On, Sleepy Bear
- Song: Time to Sleep
- Finger play: Five Little Bears

#### Notes and News

- We have had our first taste of winter already, as we know more is to come. Please start to bring all outdoor gear for your children.  
(Snow pants, boots, mittens, and hats)

#### Process Oriented Art Activities and Easel Activities

- Pine cone bird feeders
- Brown finger paint with bear claws
- Paint with "bear fur"
- Coffee ground bears
- Snoozing ladybugs
- Group Art- Bears in the cave

#### Large Motor Activities

- Follow the paw prints
- Bear hunt

#### Small Motor Activities

- Lacing bears
- Play dough with bear cookie cutters

#### Dramatic Play

- A bear's cave  
(Big box with bear stuffed animals)

#### Sensory Exploration

- Where Frogs Hibernate  
Water/mud/frogs

# Delightful Dragonflies Daily Schedule

6:30	8:30	Welcome/ Free Choice
8:30	9:00	Breakfast
9:00	9:15	Clean-Up
9:15	9:45	<u>Morning Group Time</u> -good morning greeting -pledge of allegiance -calendar weather -storybooks related to theme -songs and finger plays
9:45	11:00	<u>Discovery Time</u> -morning snack -open art studio -process oriented art -variety of math and language art activities -music and movement -learning centers: block area, library, science area, dramatic play and manipulative
11:00	11:45	Outdoor Play/Large Motor Play
11:45	12:00	Wash hands for lunch
12:00	12:30	Lunch
12:30	1:00	<u>Noon Time Group</u> -story books -songs/finger plays -music/movement
1:00	2:30	Naptime/Quiet Activities for non-nappers
2:30	3:15	Outdoor/Large Motor Play
3:15	3:45	Afternoon Snack
3:45	6:30	<u>Free Choice Time/Departure</u> Activities include -music/movement -dramatic play -learning centers -afternoon open ended art

Preschool  
 schedule  
 runs from  
 9:00-11:30

# Dragonfly Newsletter

November 2011

Dear Families,

Well, it's November already! We can say good bye to the nice weather! The weather is chilly now some mornings, so please start to send hats and mittens will your children. Hopefully we will not need snow pants for awhile, but it is Minnesota anything can happen!

This month we would like to work on self help skills with the children. It can make a world of difference if you carry it over into the home life. Such things as putting on one's own coat, starting to zip it, putting things away and being responsible for self.



## Special Days

Nov. 10th- Krueger's Christmas Tree Farm Field Trip

Nov.15 - Teacher Conferences  
Details soon to follow at the front desk.

Nov.24 & 25- Little Victories will be closed.



## Preschool Topics

### Nursery Rhymes

During the first two weeks of this month we will explore all the wonderful stories from *Mother Goose*. The children will be exposed to rhyme, repetition, and fun.

### Thanksgiving/Giving Thanks

The last part of the month will be spent on turkey talk and being thankful for what we have.

## GOT JUNK?

The preschool room will always take items for our dramatic play area such as old glasses, fancy shoes, bead necklaces, and much more. We can also use any kind of art scrapes you may want to donate.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

Brady -Nov.26th



# Dragonflies Classroom List

\*Please be sure to label all items

Please look over this list seasonally to make sure your child has everything he/she needs throughout the day. If you prefer, you may leave these items at school during the week and bring them home on the weekends to launder.



## SPRING

- Full extra change of clothing  
*(Underpants, pants and socks and shirt)*
- Small blanket for rest time
- Sunscreen
- Rain coat on rainy days

## SUMMER



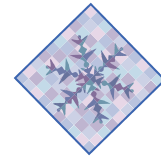
- Full extra change of clothing  
*(Underpants, pants and socks and shirt)*
- Small blanket for rest time
- Sunscreen
- Swimsuit for sprinkler play
- Raincoat on rainy days
- Sturdy shoes (please no flip flops)
- Shorts under dresses



## FALL

- Full extra change of clothing  
*(Underpants, pants and socks and shirt)*
- Small blanket for rest time
- Dress your child in layers for cool mornings and warm afternoons.

## WINTER



- Full extra change of clothing  
*(Underpants, pants and socks and shirt)*
- Small blanket for rest time
- Winter coat
- Warm waterproof mittens
- Hat
- Snow pants
- Boots