

# Rainbow Room Classroom

## Parent Handbook 2017-2018



### Little Acorn Preschool and Kindergarten

401 E. 33<sup>rd</sup> St

Vancouver, WA 98663

(360) 693-5614

[www.littleacornpreschool.com](http://www.littleacornpreschool.com)

“Opening doors for children through play, nurturing, and respect for individual differences”.

### **Sally, Lead Teacher**

Hi everyone! I'm Sally Repman, and I am so excited to begin this school year with you :D. I have been teaching at Little Acorn since 2014, and absolutely love it! I am the proud parent of two girls, Lila and Helene. They both graduated from LAPSK and are now attending Hough Elementary and Discovery Middle School. Before starting my own family I worked with kids in a variety of settings. I have worked for school districts in Oregon, Alaska, and here in Washington. I have been an assistant teacher in a variety of classroom settings in special education as well as a substitute teacher in the general population. I have also worked privately in families homes working with children with autism, and have provided respite care and worked at camps for children with disabilities. I have my Associates of Arts and an Instructional Assistant/ Special Education Certificate from PCC. I stopped working to take care of my girls and have really been enjoying working again! For fun, our family does LOTS of camping and boating, pretty much half the year! We also enjoy wakeboarding, hiking, bike riding, swimming, and my new favorite, stand up paddle boarding :D.

In the Rainbow Room, we provide a nurturing setting where kids can learn to feel comfortable leaving their caregivers for a short time and start to see themselves as an individual. This might be a little difficult at first, so we will help your child feel comforted until they can do this for themselves. Our main focus at school will be on learning social skills. For most kiddos, this is their first experience dealing with many children at once, and it is so critical we give them the tools to help them make these interactions a success. These tools can be language, turn taking, waiting patiently, sharing, problem solving, and working as a community or team to accomplish tasks. We also will introduce the beginnings of academics. This will include basic shapes, colors and numbers. We will explore many topics throughout the year and learn basic concepts within each topic. We are looking forward to getting to know everyone and know we are going to have a great year!

Please feel free to email me ([sallyrepman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyrepman@hotmail.com)) with any questions you may have! Please do not hesitate to stop by and talk **after** picking up your children once everyone has been dismissed from class.

### **Kirby Bain, Assistant Teacher**

Hi! I'm Kirby and I am so excited to be joining the team here at Little Acorn!

This is my first year at LAPSK, but I have years of teaching experience behind me. I have a bachelor's degree in Human Development with a minor in Sociology and many credits of Early Childhood Education. I spent my high school and college years working in various nanny positions and childcare centers, and after graduation I worked for Vancouver School District as a paraeducator.

After some time with the school district I took a break from my professional life to start a family. My husband and I have now been married for 10 years and we have 3 beautiful children together. Nolan and Aurora, both LAPSK graduates, who are now attending Lincoln Elementary, and Bennett who is in Dragonfly class this year.

As a parent having my kids at Little Acorn has been a wonderful experience and I can't wait to be on the flip side as a teacher now too! I look forward to getting to know you and your children this year in Rainbow room!

## Rainbow Room Schedule

This schedule is just a guide for our day and we are always making adjustments. If an activity is going really well and the kids want to explore it further, we will do that, or if there is a special art project we are doing, we will change things around. Flexibility is very important while working with children, especially this age group.

- 9:00-9:25 **Free Choice-** Welcome time. Children can choose an open area to explore and take a little time to adjust to being at school.
- 9:25-9:30 **Clean Up Time**
- 9:30-9:45 **Circle Time-** Calendar, weather, songs
- 9:45-10:00 **Bathroom Break-** Go to the bathroom, wash hands, get ready to go play.
- 10:00-10:30 **Play Outside-** If the weather is bad we will play at our indoor play area.
- 10:30-10:50 **Snack Time-** Wash hands, eat snack. Children may look at books and do puzzles until everyone is finished.
- 10:50-11:00 **Story Time-** We will read a short story about our theme for the day/ week and go over the class project.
- 11:00-11:40 **Art / Free Choice-** Children will come to the table to do a class project. This may be art, sensory, fine motor, manipulatives, or a game. This may be done as a whole group or in small groups depending on the project. When children aren't working on the project they may go to any of the open areas to explore/ play.
- 11:40-11:45 **Clean Up**
- 11:45-12:00 **Closing Circle-** We will talk about the day, maybe read a story or sing a song that goes along with our theme. We will do our letter of the week basket and sing good bye. Children will be dismissed 1 at a time when their name is called.

## Sign in/ Sign out

The sign in/ out sheet is just outside our door. Please do not forget to fill this out during drop-off and pick-up. We only allow people on your authorized list to pick your child up. If someone other than that person is picking your child up, please let us know when you drop them off. We require a photo ID from the person you send to pick your child up. Please let them know this in advance.

## Classroom jobs

Once we get into a good rhythm, we will introduce our classroom jobs. These are small jobs your child can choose to help our class with at some point in the day. They are things like line leader, snack helper, and bell ringer. This really helps the children to feel like a part of our classroom community. They don't have to pick a job, this is optional.

## What to wear

Just remember play clothes! This is the best outfit for your child in school. There will be a lot of playing and running so we want them to be comfortable and to have shoes that stay on their feet! There will also be some painting, gluing and project making, so please make sure it is okay to get dirty.

The one and only exception to this is picture day. We will send home information in advance as to the date for pictures.

## **Toilet Training**

At Little Acorn, we help your child with toilet training. It is part of growing up and we are positive when assisting with toilet training in the classroom. When accidents occur we will try to use it as a learning experience. We will encourage them to keep trying and reward them with positive praise each time they succeed. Make sure to provide plenty of extra clothes and underwear/ pull-ups and wipes. **If your child is still wearing pull-ups we just ask that they be disposable, as we are not equipped to have cloth diapers in our classroom.**

## **Backpacks**

Please have your child bring a backpack everyday to school, labeled with their names, containing the things that they may need during the day. Extra warm clothes perhaps on cold winter days or extra underpants or pull-ups in case the need to change arises. Backpacks and coats can be hung outside the room. Children at this age sometimes are not sure which coat or backpack is their own. **Please label their backpacks and coats!**

We also have a cubby labeled for them in the bathroom where we will keep their pull-ups and wipes as well as extra clothes for easy accessibility for changing purposes. Please make sure to label each diaper and package with their name, so they do not get mixed up. We will send a note home with you when your child is in need of more diapers or wipes. An easy way to store the extra clothes is in a large Ziploc bag that is labeled.

## **Newsletters**

At the beginning of every week, you will receive a newsletter to give you an overview of the themes and activities during the week. We now send these newsletters via email as well as posting it onto the website. If you are not receiving them let me know so that I can make sure I have the right address for you. Important dates and deadlines will also be in the newsletters.

Please do not hesitate to stop me when you are dropping off or picking up your children if you need to let me know something. It is good to know if your child had a rough night sleeping or if anything else is going on that may make their day a little tougher. I can then address your child's needs in a more appropriate way.

## **Outside Play**

We will be playing outside daily, as long as weather permits. Even on cold days, we still may go outdoors to play. So please make sure that your children are dressed in clothing appropriate for the weather. Should the weather be really bad, there is a playroom where children can release their energy. Age appropriate play structures are in the playroom for your child's safety.

The playground has pea gravel so please make sure your children's shoes are comfortable for them to play out there. Sometimes sandals get little gravel pieces stuck in them, and children become frustrated.

## **Field Trips**

We have two school-wide field trips each year. We visit Bizi Farms Pumpkin Patch and attend a spring-time play. We might take one more fieldtrip as a class. It is Little Acorn's policy that you transport your child to the site and remain with your child for the entire time. You are responsible for your child. If you are not available for the day, you may authorize other parents to transport your child. That parent is then responsible for your child. When field trips sites and dates are confirmed, we will let you know in the newsletters and have reminders for you as well. We also ask that you let us know if you will be attending.

### **Cooking**

Cooking will be a part of our learning activities. We may cook once a month and our menu will depend on the lesson or theme of the week. We will let you know about specific details in the newsletters or on our message board outside the classroom. We would like to assure you that we will observe precautionary measures for everybody's safety. All cooking activities will be simple and age appropriate.

### **Sharing/ Letter of the Week**

Sharing is a big part of the Rainbow classroom and a fun time for the kids. Your child is welcome to bring an item from home to share during circle time at the end of the day. Each week we will be studying a different letter. Children may **bring an item that starts with the letter that we are studying that week**. There will be a letter of the week basket to place our sharing items in. They will stay in that basket until sharing time at the end of the day. I will let you know what letter we are exploring in our weekly newsletter.

### **Parent Teacher Conferences/Progress Reports**

Progress reports are sent home twice a year. Conferences are scheduled on an as-needed basis by parent or teacher request.

### **Positive Discipline**

We believe in positive and gentle discipline. If disagreements and hitting arises we will use positive redirection and model appropriate ways to resolve disagreements in the class. We encourage them to verbalize their feelings and to use their words.

### **Late Charge**

Please be prompt in picking up your child after class. Your child looks forward to seeing you at the door when class is done. They may feel worried and anxious that you won't come and cause anxiety when they leave you. There is a 5-minute grace period, then a charge of **\$1.00 per minute**. After that, we will need to take your child to the director's office where you can pick them up. You can also call us to let us know if you are running late so that we can tell your child that you are on your way.

### **Parent Volunteering**

Little Acorn requires all families to volunteer 2 hours per school year per enrolled child. Volunteering may be completed in the following ways: playground clean-up, helping out with our Pancake Breakfast, Carnival/Silent Auction or Family Fun night events help at school. We have a sign up sheet where you can choose which activity you would like to volunteer for. You may also meet your requirement by donating school supplies or snacks that are on the list provided. Parents may opt out of the annual volunteering commitment by donating \$100.00 per enrolled child directly to the school.

### **Birthdays**

We realize birthdays are special family days. If you would like to bring a store purchased snack to your child's classroom to share with classmates, please let us know. There may be several birthdays in a given week or month. The teacher may ask you to bring your child's birthday snack on a day other than your child's actual birthday. This will allow every child to have its own special day within class. We recognize this is the age when many children start to have birthday parties with friends outside of school. **If you are inviting children from school to attend then please refrain from placing invitations in children's boxes. Please contact children outside of school for these private parties.**