

# Little Acorn Kindergarten Prep Parent Handbook



Ready to take a fun step?  
Well, come on in to Kindergarten Prep!!!

# Welcome to Kindergarten Prep!!!

## Teacher Sinéad: (pronounced 'Shinade')

Welcome! I am thrilled to have the opportunity to spend a spectacular school year as your child's teacher. My name is Sinéad Brooks, and I am the lead Kindergarten Prep teacher. I feel very privileged to work at Little Acorn and to be surrounded by your wonderful children. I am so excited about getting to know each one of your families. Here is a little bit of information to help you get to know me...

I began working at Little Acorn in September 2014 after a few years staying home with my children. I earned my Master's degree in Teaching in 2007 and hold my teaching certificate in Washington State. In 2016, I completed my Professional Certificate to become highly-qualified teacher. I regularly attend Early Childhood Education classes held in conjunction with Evergreen and Vancouver Public School districts.

I met my wonderful husband, Dutch, in Germany in 1997, when I was lucky enough to spend a year studying in Germany as part of my bachelor's degree program. We married in 1999 and have 3 great children - Declan (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade; graduated from Little Acorn in 2015) and my twins, Elise and Rory, (almost 5; Little Acorn students.) In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, working out, camping, traveling, reading, and trying to fit in some knitting.

As your child's teacher for the next school 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. I believe we are a team working together in your son/daughter's education.

Communication is a key part of your student's learning so please feel free to let me know any questions or concerns you might have, by sending a message through the Bloomz app, or you can email me at [teachersineadbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:teachersineadbrooks@gmail.com). I am also available after class or by special arrangement.

### Teacher Caroline:

Caroline Fields is our amazing staff assistant in the Kindergarten Prep class. She has been with the class since 1997! Caroline is a dedicated teammate with a bright, cheerful personality and caring demeanor. Her daughter and two sons are all graduates of Little Acorn. 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 by LAPS&K.

## Teaching Philosophy

As your child's Kindergarten Prep teacher, I believe it is my job 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. I believe parents and teachers work as partners in each child's educational experience. With the above goals in mind and your support, I am sure your little ones will embrace the joy of learning and gain the foundation they will use throughout their education.

## Curriculum

Our goal in the Kindergarten Prep class is for your child to be ready for the next phase of their education and enter Kindergarten confident in their success. We use an integrated approach to learning, which means the parts of our learning are connected to one another. For example, if the theme is Fall we learn sounds related to Fall words, read about what happens in Fall, and make patterns from leaves or count pumpkin seeds for math. We also do art projects and science investigations centered around the topic of Fall. Below are some of the skills we will work on this year.



### Social / Emotional Skills

- Tell their whole name, birthday, and parent's name(s).
- Follow 2-step directions with ease and begin to follow 3-step directions
- Remember and follow routines
- Use words to describe feelings
- Put on coat independently
- Use bathroom independently
- Share, take turns, and help others
- Play cooperatively with others
- Adjust to new situations and/or people
- Comfort others

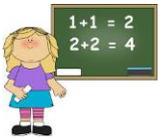


## Literacy:



Students will be able to...

- Name most upper- and lower-case letters when presented in random order
- Say the sounds made by most letters when presented in random order
- Discriminate between rhyming and non-rhyming words
- Identify what happened first, next, and last in a simple story
- Write their first name with an initial capital letter followed by lower case letters
- Draw a picture that tells a story and use "guess and go" spelling to label parts of the picture



## Math

Students will be able to...

- Count out loud to at least 20, and eventually 30
- Name numerals 1 to 10 when presented in random order, and eventually up to 20
- Identify the following 2D shapes: circle, square, triangle, oval, rectangle, and diamond
- Match identical shapes
- Draw an X, circle, oval, triangle, square and rectangle
- Match objects of the same color
- Name each of the following colors: red, blue, orange, green, yellow, purple, pink, brown, black and gray
- Demonstrate an understanding of position words (in back of, in front of, beside, over and under)
- Identify which picture does not belong with the other pictures in a group (classification)



## Science & Social Studies



In Science, we will cover Seasons, Weather, Living & Non-living, and the Five Senses among many other topics. We will also explore and investigate areas of interest to the children. In the area of Social Studies, we will cover Respect, Classroom Responsibilities, Helpers in our Communities, some basic Map skills, and learn about holidays such as Veteran's Day, Martin Luther King Day and St Patrick's Day.

## Assessments

All Kindergarten Prep students are evaluated individually in the Fall to determine their strengths in literacy and math. We will then work with the student on any skills that the student has not yet mastered and to extend those they have. Throughout the school year, students will be re-evaluated to assess for growth.

## What is Common Core? A brief explanation of the Common Core Standards

Washington State adopted the Common Core Standards. These learning standards were designed to raise academic levels and give clear learning goals. As students show readiness, we will begin working on some of the Kindergarten\* standards detailed below.

### English Language Arts & Literacy: 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
- Isolate the sounds in 3-letter words; e.g. c-a-t
- Recognize some words in different contexts
- Understand the way we read affects the meaning
- Read a range of books and explore new ones



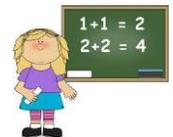
### English Language Arts & Literacy: Writing

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



### Math:

- Count 0 to 100 by 1's and by 10's
- Recognize, write, compare and order numbers or objects 0 to 20
- Use greater than, less than and equal to compare numbers, or sets of objects
- 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



*\*These are year-end goals for Kindergartners, NOT expectations for those entering Kindergarten.*



Kindergarten Prep  
Daily Schedule  
9:00am to 12:00pm

- 9:00-9:05 Student Sign-In, Choose Class Jobs
- 9:05-9:20 Morning Work (review, survey, graphs, worksheets, independent reading, etc.)
- 9:20-9:35 1<sup>st</sup> Circle Time\*: Morning Message/Question of the Day, Calendar (Today, Date, Number of School-days, Weather)
- 9:35-10:05 Free Choice
- 10:05-10:15 Clean-Up, Bathroom
- 10:15-10:30 Snack, Read-Aloud (book, song, poem, play, chant, etc.)
- 10:30-10:45 2<sup>nd</sup> Circle Time: Introduce & Explain center activities
- 10:45-11:15 Learning Centers: small group or one-on-one with teachers (guided reading, writing, math, science, social studies, art)
- 11:15-11:20 Clean-Up & Bathroom
- 11:20-11:50 Recess
- 11:50 Show & Tell (Sharing) and Pack Up
- 12:00 Dismiss for Home

\* On Thursday mornings, Circle Time is done in Spanish.