

Buddy Bears-4 turning 5 Information Sheet 2022-2023



Friends Preschool & Kindergarten
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A Great Place for Your Child to Learn & Grow!

Our Buddy Bear classroom is the perfect introduction to education or the next step after the Busy Bees. Our program incorporates many Montessori philosophies, and developmentally appropriate activities, with a Christian base. The Buddy Bear kindergarten readiness classroom introduces art, music, STEM, practical life skills, sensory exploration, language arts, early math concepts, and foreign language exposure.

What our Buddy Bear day incorporates:

- **Daily Independent Activity Choice:** Children can choose activities that interest them. These include games, coloring, sensory activities, imaginative play, and shelf toys that are changed monthly.
- **Daily Meeting Time:** The daily meeting time includes songs, rhymes, and movement, as well as sharing, daily jobs, and question of the day. This time provides opportunities for leadership, public speaking, asking questions, expressing ideas, and recognizing his/her name in print.
- **Daily Curriculum Activities:** Each day children will engage in pre-language and pre-math activities. These include, but are not limited to, story time, recognizing the alphabet (both upper and lower case), beginning to recognize letter sounds, colors, shapes, one-to-one counting, number recognition 0-10, counting to 30, big and little, graphing, and so much more. Our curriculum also includes introduction to *Handwriting Without Tears* concepts.
- **Daily Creative Art Project:** Our art projects allow our students to express themselves creatively, while also developing fine motor skills.
- **Bible Lesson:** Our children have a daily, non-denominational, Bible lesson that includes stories, songs, and holiday celebrations.
- **Lunchtime:** Students bring their own snack and lunch to school. This is a great time for your child to learn independent skills and engage in social interaction.
- **Recess:** We offer daily outdoor playtime on our beautiful playground where your child can continue developing social skills and gross motor skills. Indoor recess is provided if the weather prohibits us from going outside.
- **Rest Time:** For our students that stay till 3 pm, there is a 30-minute rest time after recess. Friends provides a rest mat, while you provide a towel or blanket that comes to school each day with your child.

What makes the Buddy Bear classroom the right choice for my child?

- **Will your child be 4 years old before September 1, 2022?** If yes, then our Buddy Bear classroom is where you want to register. We make this cutoff date to better align with the elementary schools, allowing our classrooms flow appropriately to the next level.
- **Is your child independently potty trained?** We ask that your child be able to know when he/she needs to “go,” how to ask to “go,” and be able to complete all necessary actions independently.
- **Is your child ready to make new friends and work with groups?** Our Buddy Bear classroom is a wonderful place for budding friendships with the support of teachers that know how to model for your child how to express thoughts and ideas. The Buddy Bear classroom will assist your child in learning to compromise, be respectful, and problem solve.
- **There are multiple options for the Buddy Bear classroom.** There is the option to choose a 2, 3 or 4 day a week program that each runs from either 9 am- 1 pm or 9 am -3 pm.