



Green Door The Family School PreSchool Program

PROGRAM EMPHASIS: Green Door is usually the first major step away from a home setting into a structured learning environment. Our program is designed to support each child's unique personal growth and discovery.

While respecting all the important areas of development; social, emotional, physical and cognitive, our program emphasizes the social-emotional growth of the child. The important work of learning to separate, work comfortably in a larger group, express one's ideas and feelings, resolve conflicts and experience consequences, develop friendships and a sense of high self esteem, all occur in the Green Door years. The Beginning Green Door student, the three year old, has short periods of large group instruction and long periods with choices of prepared and self directed activity. A familiar routine with only a few transitions and lots of encouragement, help the young child develop confidence and enjoyment of the school environment. The Advanced Green Door student, four years and older, is usually ready for longer group time, additional instruction by specialty teachers, field trips and exposure to exciting cognitive experiences.

THE CURRICULUM: The curriculum is designed to provide daily opportunities and ample time for exploration and discovery. The program takes advantage of our unique inside/outside classroom. Green Door is set up to be a lab for the curious preschooler.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE: (8:30 - 9:00 a.m. children arrive.)

HALF DAY PROGRAM

OPENING CIRCLE: This is an important time for socialization and connection. The critical work of listening, taking turns, expressing ideas and exploring concepts all take place. Opening Circle includes music, concept learning, art, theme projects, choices for the day and a well chosen children's book. Opening Circle is followed by hygiene and a healthy, Family School provided snack.

OPEN CHOICE: (10 - 11:30 a.m.) Every day the children have a long period of exploration, skill building, learning and play both inside and outside. Each day a specialty teacher visits to present science, music or P.E. with a small group of children. Art and theme based projects are going on as well. Most importantly, the developing social skills are encouraged and supported.

SECOND CIRCLE: The closing circle recaps the morning and brings closure to this half of the day. Often at this time, the group has an opportunity to "share" items or ideas with the whole group. It is a highly valued experience for expressing thoughts and feelings. Each child has one "Sharing Day" every week. We usually end the morning with a special book, song and game.

FULL DAY PROGRAM

The children who stay for the Full Day share lunch, outside play, rest and inside activities together. The tone in the afternoon is often quieter and includes more opportunities for interacting individually with the teachers.

12:00 - 12:50	Hygiene (bathroom and hand washing) and lunch Lunches are provided from home. After communal lunch, the children play on the yard.
12:50	All school chores
1:00 - 1:20	Hygiene and preparation for Rest (Book, Songs, Game)
1:20 - 2:00	RESTTIME Individual cots, quiet room, music, back rub, Sleeping children continue to rest according to parent's wishes.
2:00 - 2:45	Book Looking and Table activities (Board games, art activities, construction toys, play dough and more)
2:45 - 3:00	Good Bye book and closure of the school day
3:00	Green Door ends. The children are picked up to go home or they are accompanied to the Family School's After Care Program.

INSIDE LEARNING CENTERS include:

Dramatic Play, Puppetry, Science study, Music, Writing Center, Reading Library, Enhanced Block Area, Puzzles and Games, Arts and Crafts, Listening Center, Classroom Pets

OUTSIDE LEARNING CENTERS include:

Carpentry, Sand and Water play, Gardening, Nature Hikes, "Messy" Outdoor Art, P.E. program, Large, well-equipped yard, Dramatic Play area, Science studies (ecology, geology, botany)

Green Door is a constantly changing environment designed to reflect the young child's interests. There are three different teaching themes each school year. Past themes have included The Nocturnal World, My Home Sweet Home, The Ocean, Wildlife in the Santa Ynez Valley, Community Helpers, Insect World and many others.

GUIDELINES AND DISCIPLINE: Preschool is the place to begin to learn to respect the rights and feelings of others. It is important and difficult work that happens every day in Green Door. Our rules are few and simple; "Take care of each other and take care of our classroom and its materials." Keeping in close touch with each parent is very important in the preschool setting. We strive for constant communication between the home and classroom to keep each child's progress well understood.

GREEN DOOR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that preschoolers learn best in a setting that is friendly, safe and enriching. We think of these first years as the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning. We hope to help the children develop a sense of excitement and exploration for all there is to know. We try to communicate that Family School is a place where one's feelings and ideas are interesting and valuable. Our dream is to send each Green Door child off to the next educational step with a wonderful sense of confidence and the "I can do that!" joy that comes from feeling successful and appreciated.