Calendar Year 2013-14

Fall Semester:
Open House: Aug. 21, 22
Preschool Begins: Aug. 26, 27
Labor Day Break: Sept. 2
Semester Break: Oct. 10, 11
Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 27, 28
Preschool Ends: Dec. 5

Spring Semester:
Preschool Begins: Jan. 6
Human Rights Break: Jan. 20
Presidents Day: Feb. 17
Semester Break: Mar. 10-14
Preschool Ends: Apr. 23, 24

Summer Semester:
May 13-June 12
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00-11:30
Philosophy Statement

Educational research has concluded incontrovertibly that early childhood is the single most important development period for the children. Between birth and age six, the brain gains ninety percent of its growth, but more importantly, the foundational brain structures for continued learning throughout life are constructed during this time.

Most important to families and educators in building the optimum environment for preschoolers is understanding how preschoolers learn and build their brains; through experience! While each child has his or her own pace, they all explore their world actively—pushing, pulling, pouring, stacking, building, discussing, practicing, playing! Play is the work of early childhood.

Parents tend to be primarily concerned and focused on intellectual development—defined as reading, writing, and mathematics—as the most important needs of school readiness for preschoolers. While these skills are important, research tells us that even more important are the skills that lead to social competence. Children who have achieved a strong sense of self, of how to belong and participate well, are children who will embrace the school experience with enthusiasm. They will also predictably deal with the challenges of academic activities with confidence and competence.

There are two main factors influencing this competence; first, the supportive nature of the interaction between the teachers and the children (Howes, 1990); and second, the availability of a rich play environment that encourages interaction and self-motivated exploration (Bos and Chapman, 2005).

Over the past seven or eight years, we have gradually been moving from a ‘kindergarten readiness’ program, which has elements of what you might see in a kindergarten, to a genuine preschool, with all the excitement of self-discovery, of enthusiastic participation in a rich physical, emotional and intellectual environment. To borrow from the ‘school rules’ of Bev Bos’ Roseville School, this is what we must provide in an exemplary preschool:
The School Rules for Children:

Run, jump, explore, talk, build, teardown, yell, saw, read, wonder, ride, sing, hammer, touch, play, lead, measure, ponder, paint, experiment, dig, work, follow, mix, cook, create, compose, smell, taste, express emotion, solve problems, be alone, examine.

The School Rules for Adults:

Prepare a rich environment for the children, observe and listen, be prepared to step in with loving guidance when children are on the verge of hurting themselves, hurting another child, or destroying property.

We need to trust the children and their innate drive to learn everything about their environment. Children are learning machines, with wondrous brains far more sophisticated than we can adequately explain.

We want to reassure you that we will continue to have developmental goals in mind for your child and for future success. We will use assessment tools during the year to give you information predicting kindergarten readiness for your child.

Of course, the most important figures to the health and happiness of a child are parents. It is your interaction and encouragement that predicts success for your child more than any school. Come to school ready to play, ready to explore with the children. Bring your special skills and interests. Preschool is a place of learning, play, fun, safety, and love.
Preschool Policies

1. **PRESCHOOL TIMES:**
   - Morning Classes: 9:00-11:30
   - Afternoon Classes: 1:00-3:30

2. **COMING AND GOING:**
   If possible, a teacher will be at the top of the stairs to bring your child into the preschool. If no one is there, bring your child directly to the room through the playground gate. **DO NOT DROP THEM OFF IN THE PARKING LOT!!** You must sign your child in/out when dropping off and picking up. The sign in sheet is located near the outside door. Please be prompt in bringing your child to school and in picking them up. If someone other than yourself is picking up your child, put their names on the car pool list.

3. **ILLNESS:**
   If your child is sick, PLEASE do not send them to school! A phone call would be appreciated in the event that your child will not be in attendance.

4. **PERSONAL ITEMS:**
   Please mark all coats, backpacks, and any personal items so they can be easily identified.

5. **SHOW AND TELL:**
   Show and Tell happens every Wednesday and Thursday. Encourage your child to bring only one item. If you want to bring a pet, please schedule in advance.

6. **CLOTHING:**
   Dress your child appropriately for play and activities. We use paints and various other art supplies and play outside in the dirt.
7. **POTTY ACCIDENTS:**
The preschool has extra clothing your child may wear home when potty accidents occur. Please wash and return clothing to preschool. If your child is uncomfortable wearing the preschool clothing, the teacher will call and have you bring a change of clothing. It may be wise, if your child has accidents often, to send extra clothing in your child’s backpack.

8. **CAPTAIN OF THE DAY:**
Each child has the opportunity to be ‘captain of the day’. The captain’s responsibilities include bringing the snack and being teacher’s helper. We rely on parent involvement and this is your chance to spend the day with your child at the preschool. If you cannot be there please arrange for someone else to be there (grandpa, grandma, older brother or sister, aunt, uncle, neighbor, etc.). We depend upon your help!

Your child will be **birthday** captain near his or her birthday. You may bring a poster with pictures to share with the class. Children with summer birthdays will be birthday captain in April.

9. **SNACKS:**
Snacks are provided by you on your child’s captain day. We have a refrigerator, freezer, oven, and microwave if needed. Plan on serving for approximately 24. **PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES!**

10. **OBSERVATION BOOTH:**
An observation booth is available, please use it! Enter in the south hall. Do not enter the preschool through the observation booth door.
11. **CANCELLATION POLICY:**
   We reserve the right for cancelling enrollment if:
   * child consistently hurts him or herself, teachers, or other children.
   * child is extremely unhappy and unable to participate and adjust to class or teacher.

12. **Tuition Payments:**
   Tuition may be paid in full at the beginning of the semester or in monthly installments. Full tuition is due August 20th. Monthly payments are due: August 20th, September 20th, October 20th, and November 20th. The total tuition is divided into four payments of $75, for 2-day classes, and $150, for 4-day classes.

   Payments are paid online at [www.dixie.edu/preschool](http://www.dixie.edu/preschool) eMarket link. Dixie State University accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and eChecks. Credit card payments are charged a convenience fee. Please register on the eMarket link (you only have to do it once) when making payments.

13. **COMMUNICATION:**
   You will receive each month a calendar of activities planned for the preschool. It will also list the captain of the day. If you ever have any question or concerns about your child please talk to me! We have many resources available to help our children. You may email me at tprovost@dixie.edu, call me at the office 652-7848 or my cell 619-3603.
   * Also please view the class calendar online at our website [www.dixie.edu/preschool/calendar](http://www.dixie.edu/preschool/calendar)
### Daily schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome/Self-Select activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugtime</td>
<td>approx. 15 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show and Tell Wed/Thurs</td>
<td>approx. 15 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Project</td>
<td>approx. 20 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor/Outdoor time</td>
<td>approx. 45 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snack Time</td>
<td>10:45 / 2:45 10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Rug</td>
<td>approx. 15 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### College Classes

Dixie State University Preschool is a ‘demonstration’ preschool, or laboratory. Your children provide the opportunity for college students to practice college level concepts in human development, child guidance, infant and child nutrition, and other courses. Your children, in their patience and kindness, do a better job of teaching than any professor. Routinely, students say that the classes connected to the preschool are the best and most practical learning experiences they have in college.

That said, we have very high expectations for the college students in their interaction with your children. They are to be respectful and kind, they are to respect the confidentiality of the family, and to conduct themselves in a professional way. Our college students, however, are often still teenagers, and at times make mistakes. The most important thing for parents to know is that any concern you have is absolutely important to us. We rely on you to give us feedback regarding the involvement of the college students with your child.
Your child’s well-being is our first commitment, as well as your confidence in us as providers and protectors.

Different college courses have different levels of interaction:

1. Human Development through Lifespan. Students become “college friends”, and design fun activities with your children who are divided into groups of 3 or 4 preschoolers to 7-8 college students. Their final project for the course includes a child case study.
2. Child Guidance Based on Developmental Theory. Students work in the preschool for 40 hours participating in activities and lessons.
4. Infant and Child Nutrition. Students prepare food, appropriate activities, and healthy nutritionally for young children.

Registration Procedures

*Fall registration is the first Tuesday in May. Registration is online at www.dixie.edu/preschool. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and continues until classes are full. A $25 dollar registration fee (non-refundable) is to be paid online at the time of registration.

*Spring registration forms are sent home in November asking if you would like to re-enroll your child for spring semester.

*Summer registration forms are sent home the end of March with classes beginning in May and continue through the middle of June.
Welcome To
Dixie State University
Preschool
2013-2014

Preschool Office: 652-7848
Teresa Provost: 619-3603
Cari Buckner: 879-4252
Dept. Secretary: 879-4247