

Class At A Glance

Schick's Crossing Preschool

Purple Express (Pre-K) **Red Engines (4-year-olds)**

Class Days/Times: Purple Express—M/T/W/Th, 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Red Engines—M/W/F, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Student/Teacher Ratio: 17 / 2

Fees: Purple Express—\$65 registration fee, \$160 monthly tuition
Red Engines—\$65 registration fee, \$135 monthly tuition

Class Synopsis:

The main purpose of these programs is Kindergarten readiness. By the end of the year students should be able to recognize all of the letters and numbers (0-10), be able to make the sounds of many of the letters, know sign language for each letter, be able to write their names and count to 100. These skills are learned through a variety of different activities each day, often when children don't even realize they're learning!

Each day begins with students finding their "lollipops". At the beginning of the year the "lollipops" will have each child's first name, then last name, and over the course of the year will also include their addresses, phone numbers, birthdays and parents' names. By doing this simple activity students learn all their "vital" information before heading off to Kindergarten. Once they've found their "lollipops" they must answer the charting question of the day. Then they are free to play with their friends until everyone is settled in the room. We then start circle time with a song or two, then assign jobs for the day. We will do the calendar and weather charting, then discuss our charting question to see which answer has the most, which has the least, and how we are all different or the same. Next we will count how many days of school we have had and add another link to our counting chain. In January we begin counting our chain by 10's as well as by 1's. We will then introduce the letter of the week, making the sound(s) the letter makes and learning how to say the letter in sign language. As the year progresses we will review each letter, its sign and its sound each day. We will read our alphabet story together then move on to our learning and art centers.

Each day we will do an alphabet activity. The first day of the week we will create a stick puppet of the character of the week. The second day we will create our own alphabet story to take home. The third day we will practice writing the letter in both upper-case and lower-case forms. For the Pre-K class, Thursdays are the day we enjoy learning with Scholastic's Clifford Magazines.

While some students are enjoying the alphabet activity, other friends will be participating in an art activity. Art activities can be as simple as fingerpainting or as elaborate as creating an ocean mural for the wall. Some favorite art activities include "spray" painting with water bottles, watercolors, paper punches and tissue paper mosaics. The most important part of any art activity is that students are able to be creative and develop small motor skills. Once students have finished both their alphabet activity and art activity, they are able to play freely with their friends until it is time to clean up for snack time.

After going to the bathroom and washing hands we enjoy snack time together. Students are required to clean up after themselves when they are finished and then they get their backpacks and pack up their papers to take home. This is an important step in preparing for Kindergarten, as they learn to do things for themselves. They are then permitted to play quietly while waiting for the rest of their friends to finish.

Once everyone has finished and the room is cleaned up again we go outside or spend time playing in our gym area. During gym time students may play group games, play with balls or bean bags, crawl through the tunnel or walk on the balance beam, or enjoy parachute activities. Regardless of the activity, students are able to be loud, run, jump, play and use up some of their youthful energy.

Following outdoor/gym time, we again wash our hands then head back to the classroom for a closing circle time. After enjoying a book and song or two it is time to get ready to go!

The 4-year-old program and Pre-K program are very similar in schedule and basic activities, but the afternoon class also learns more sign language during circle time, learns how to do handbells in the spring, does more group art projects and spends more time in the garden learning about science and nature. There is more one-on-one time with the teachers, and with over 30% more time in the classroom, there is much more time spent learning and creating. With students attending four days in a row, rather than the every-other-day format of the 4-year-old class, there is greater retention and consistency, which helps prepare them for the rigor of Kindergarten.

Both the morning 4-year-old program and the Pre-K program well prepare students for the high demands of Kindergarten. Assessments done in January and again in May give parents a good indication of where their child is still working and guides them towards activities they can do at home to further Kindergarten preparedness. Children will leave Schick's Crossing with a love of learning, a positive outlook on school, and an excitement that will carry them through Kindergarten and beyond. If you have any further questions, please visit our website at www.bartlettpreschool.com or call the preschool office at 630-483-1030.