



Welcome

We are happy to have you join our family at Granite Start Early Learning Center. We hope you will find the information contained in this handbook useful in navigating your life at the center. As you read through the handbook, keep in mind that you will be responsible for adhering to the policies and following the procedures throughout your child's enrollment. With this in mind we encourage you to ask any questions you may have or request clarification on any of the policies and procedures contained in the handbook. We hope you will choose one of our parent partnership opportunities to meet other families and get involved in the center. Of course, you are welcome at any time to ask for assistance from any of us. We look forward to partnering with you!

Mission Statement

To create a nurturing and safe environment that develops a solid learning foundation for each child by creating experiences for children where they can learn about themselves and explore the world they live in.

Philosophy

We believe that children cannot be truly prepared to learn unless they have strong self-esteem. The development of strong self-esteem and confidence begins with a child's earliest experiences. As early childhood educators, we must build a strong foundation that allows an infant to learn how to problem-solve; a toddler to learn how to self-regulate; and a preschooler to learn how to resolve conflicts. Children are growing and learning at a phenomenal rate. It is important for them to have an environment that is consistent and secure. We believe that to promote each child's uniqueness and varied abilities we must create an atmosphere of inclusion. Children learn best through play and so we must create a program that incorporates physical, cognitive social, emotional, language, self-help and aesthetic areas. Our goal is to ensure that each child has a sense of belonging, being valued and having choices. We must appreciate and respect each family we serve. In no way should we discriminate on the basis of age, sex, marital status, sexual preference, race, national origin, heritage, cultural background, disability, political or religious beliefs in regards to families and/or children. On the contrary, we value and welcome the positive differences among us all. We must recognize that parents are a child's first teacher and when parents are involved in their child's education they learn best.



Granite Start Early Learning Center is licensed to serve children ages 2 months to 12 years old. Each of the seven classrooms has a different age range, child teacher ratio, and set of development goals. We use the age guidelines required by NH Bureau of Child Care Licensing as well as the teacher to child ration and group size recommendations of the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

The Classrooms are as follows:

Infants: The teacher – child ratio is 1:3 and the flexible environment designed for mobile and non-mobile infants between 8 weeks and 12 months old.

Infant/Toddler: Is a mixed age classroom designed to foster continued exploration for infants and toddlers between 12 months and 2 years old. The teacher – child ratio is 1:5.

Toddlers: The teacher – child ratio is 1:6. This classroom is designed to develop independence and self-regulation for toddlers between 2 and 3 years old.

Preschool: The classroom is designed to promote self-control for preschoolers between 3 and 4 years old and the teacher – child ratio is 1:6.

Pre-Kindergarten: The teacher – child ratio is 1:12 and the classroom is designed to prepare 4 year olds for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten: The kindergarten class will run from 9am to 2pm and will incorporate specialists in gym, music, and art into the day as well as computer time. Going from a half day pre-k program to an expanded kindergarten program benefits children by better preparing them for the longer 1st grade program. There are two options: full day Kindergarten with before/after school care or just Full Day kindergarten.

We offer:

- Child Care Scholarship Program
- Military Discount
- 2nd Child Discount