



...Because so much is riding on your choice
Preschool Observation Packet



DESERT HEIGHTS PRESCHOOL

16635 N. 51st Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85306
(602) 896-0888

www.desertheightspreschool.org

PRESCHOOL OBSERVATION

We understand that all parents have a list of questions when seeking the best learning environment for their child. It is important to have these questions answered by the staff and to put you at ease. We encourage you to also spend time with your child’s teacher and future friends. It is important to see the surrounding that your child will be in. Sitting quietly and observing can answer questions you have not even thought of to ask.

Not sure what to look for? Here are a few examples:

Classroom Observations:

- ___ Happy cheerful atmosphere for both teachers and children.
- ___ School philosophy is carried out in the classroom.
- ___ Children engaged in hands on, open ended play.
- ___ Limited or no time spent on computer/worksheets
- ___ Children's art displayed throughout the school.
- ___ Art is more process (individual creativity) than product
- ___ You can tell what theme or emergent curriculum topic children are learning about by books, art, puzzles, toys and bulletin board content.
- ___ Classrooms may be mess after exuberant play, but should be clean underneath. Walls, windows, carpets, shelving should be clean.
- ___ Rooms and toys are organized making it easy for children to access materials and put them away.
- ___ Organized, clean bathrooms, diaper changing area
- ___ Water, bathrooms, soap, toilets are readily accessible to children.
- ___ Variety of age appropriate toys and materials in good repair and enough for several children to be playing in the same area without conflict.
- ___ The majority of time should be conflict free.

Our preschool teachers follow a timed agenda daily. We ask parents to respect their timeline and set up an observation time by emailing Frances Delgado fdelgado@desertheightsschools.org . We want to make the best of your time and make sure you get the most out of your visit in the classroom. “Circle time” is the time we would encourage parents/guardians to observe. Weekly schedules are available to help parents/guardian determine what time works best for their schedule.

_____ / _____ / _____

Teachers Name/Classroom #

Observation Date

Observation Time



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CIRCLE TIME

2 & 3 year-olds:

- The Pledge of allegiance
- Calendar Review
 - Your child will learn to recognize the months of the year, days of the week, and current year
- Color recognition
- Shape recognition
- Number Recognition and sequence
- Sign Language
- Alphabet-Letter Recognition
- Music and Movement
- Weekly Topic Introduced such as opposites and directional concepts
- Weekly Responsibilities are assigned to students for example, line leader, calendar helper, clean up and more.

Pre-K Classroom:

- The Pledge of allegiance
- Calendar Review
 - Pre-K students will begin to understand the structure of the calendar through song and memorization. (For example, say "Today is Monday, September 1st. Spell Monday M-O-N-D-A-Y. How many syllables do you hear?) Math will also be introduced by the use of patterns.
- Color recognition
- Shape recognition
- Number Recognition and sequence/patterns
- Sign Language
- Alphabet-Letter Recognition
- High Frequency Sight Words
- Phonemic Awareness
- Rhyming language games
- Name Recognition
- Science/Social Studies Concepts
- Music and Movement
- Weekly Topic Introduced such as opposites and directional concepts
- Weekly Responsibilities are assigned to students, social responsibilities





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CENTERS

Our classrooms are Center Based classrooms. That means the room is divided into different subject areas such as: home center, blocks, science, library/listening, manipulatives and art. Work stations are set up by the teachers according to the agenda for the day.

1. LITERACY

Our preschool staff recognizes the importance of learning to read at an early age. Early vocabulary increases language skills. First comes listening and speaking and then reading and writing. We encourage our students to read, look at pictures and we take the time to discuss or exchange ideas with them (sampling, predicting, confirming, and integrating). We understand all students differ in how they learn as well as how quickly they learn. We as a team are developing your child's:

- Oral Language
- Listening Skills
- Responses to emotional situations
- Develops and understanding of how to work with others
- Rhyming
- Understanding Story Sequence
- Developing Vocabulary
- Clean-up Directions
- Building Sight Word Vocabulary
- Using Representations of objects and ideas
- Making up Stories



2. MATHEMATICS

Daily events in life include the use of mathematics and we instill the fundamentals in your child at DHP. Our foundation begins with the recognition of numbers and increases throughout their education here at our school. Other concepts taught to students through activities include:

- Space
- Shapes
- Size
- Counting
- Order
- Number
- Fractions
- Weight
- Patterns
- Equal/Unequal
- Recognizes sets or groups





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- Shortest/Longest
- Tallest/Shortest
- Estimate
- Length
- Depth
- Width
- Height
- Mapping
- Symmetry
- Quantity
- Similarities and Differences
- Classification
- Planning
- Measurement

HOME CENTER

- Allows children to engage in problem solving and decision making
- Enriches the child's verbal and nonverbal communication skills
- Helps children construct their own understanding of how the world works
- Lays a foundation for symbolic thinking
- Social/Emotional
- Gives children opportunities to cooperate, take turns, and share roles
- Allows children to "try on" roles of people in their lives
- Develops skills in conflict resolution
- Enhances relationship with peers
- Develops the ability to express feelings appropriately
- Allows children to practice negotiation skills
- Helps children feel in control by making things happen
- Promotes feelings of security with the use of familiar materials



BLOCK CENTER

- Teaches your child to:
- Use their large muscles
- Choose sizes and shapes
- Learn their own ideas
- Learn to make decisions
- Learns to recognize the rights of others





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SCIENCE/TABLE CENTER

- Provides a vehicle for preschoolers to learn as they play and explore.
- Sharpens children's senses and contributes to their total development, including language, motor skills, social interaction, intellectual skills, and emotional development.
- Provides a meaningful web for integrating math and reading.
- Provides preschoolers insights into understanding their world and themselves.
- Develops lifelong skills of observing, problem solving, questioning, experimenting, exploring, creative thinking, force, balance, stability, and cause and effect.



PUZZLES

Our classrooms are supplied with puzzles that help students learn how things fit together. Working on puzzles helps a child:

- Develop fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination.
- Learn to handle frustration and stressful moments.
- Develop thinking, matching, and recognition skills.
- Develop problem-solving skills.
- Learn to associate, match, classify, and sequence.
- Be encouraged to work with others and make choices.
- Develop feelings of satisfaction and competence.



ART

Our teachers encourage our students to use their imagination and creativity throughout all centers. We know how much fun art can be for preschoolers and we make sure we include fun projects daily. Art is not only crafts and fun play but also the learning of processes. The time spent in art center helps your child:

- Learn Patterns
- Learn Balance
- Be Creative
- Learn about Designs
- Planning Skills
- Self Expression
- Small motor skills
- How to use everyday tools such as glue, scissors, writing/coloring tools and painting.
- Experience art through the senses





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COMPUTER CENTER

Our students love technology and we understand that we live in technology driven world. We offer our Pre-K students computer time on a limited basis. We allow 10 minutes of computer time a day. Each day our students have the opportunity to explore different learning concepts provided by our educational software and websites. Children enjoy experiencing games that provide music and creative images. We also add props such as books, games, toys near the area so the computer center becomes an extension of the other centers.

