



Eagles Class

Eagles class is an afternoon pre-k skill-building session offered as an add-on to our morning Red Robin preschool class. This class is designed to allow the 4 year old, who is entering Kindergarten next year, more instruction in the many skills they will be expected to know when they enter Kindergarten.

The Eagles class builds upon all the levels of child-directed learning through play they experience in the morning Red Robins class. We add a new dimension of mostly teacher-directed learning in the afternoon in order to transition the pre-k 4 year old to a typical public school Kindergarten in our area.

Expectations for listening to teachers' directions, following instructions, working on a given task for an extended period of time, and being able to work in small groups of 2-4 quietly and without distraction, are high. The Eagles become confident and proud of their ability to meet these expectations as the school year progresses. These are all school behaviors our Kindergarten teachers like to see, and that facilitate their teaching day.

Academically, the Eagles are taught, and practice, number counting and recognition through 100+, simple addition and subtraction through 10, and that the patterns of the 100's chart are based on 10.

Letter recognition of uppercase and lower case letters, the sounds of each letter, what vowels are and how they're used, rhyming sight words, and how words are formed by combining letters, are some of the important areas of learning they practice in Eagles class weekly as well.

Eagles learn and practice the proper way to hold a pencil and write their letters from top to bottom and left to right. They get lots of motor control practice by cutting simple to intricate patterns.

The important areas involving critical thinking skills development such as sequencing and patterning are practiced weekly as well.

The Eagles 2 hour session, twice a week combines small group table, group carpet work, individual work and time in the school library listening to up to 30 minutes of an age-appropriate chapter book. This encourages the children to use their imaginations and listen intently as I question often about the story and what they think and understand is happening.

By the end of the year, most Eagles are competent and confident in all areas of age-appropriate learning that are expected in Kindergarten. Of course, all children develop at different rates and there is always a range of Kindergarten readiness in every group. Understanding this, I make sure each Eagle reaches their fullest potential at the time, during their year in Eagles class.

Eagles class has proven to be a very successful, rewarding program for our pre-k buddies. It's enjoyable, age-appropriate, and completes the Red Robin morning class experience on another level for those children finishing their preparation for Kindergarten.