



Vision: Our vision is to nurture the curiosity in children to help them develop into compassionate independent thinkers who feel a sense of connectedness to their community.

Mission: Using the natural inquisitiveness and interests of each child, our aim is to create a classroom environment to support their development, growth and preparedness for kindergarten and beyond. Student creativity, curiosity and collaboration is at the core of each day at Little Stars Preschool.

Students will be exposed to a wide variety of educational opportunities that encourage self-expression, communication, logical thinking, and problem solving.

Classroom Environment: We are a Reggio Emilia inspired preschool. We believe that children are capable of long term, sustained learning when the topic is of interest to them. As teachers, we will listen and observe the children closely, ask questions and explore the children's ideas. We view the environment of our classrooms as the "third teacher" and have therefore thoughtfully designed our rooms with this in mind. We believe that children learn from spaces they are in – they need beautiful, orderly spaces where everything has a purpose and can inspire a love of learning. The space is designed to allow for collaboration and the ability to work in small groups.

All of our classrooms are set up with a STEAM focus (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) as well as a focus on Language and Literacy. As the year progresses at Little Stars, you will see our rooms come to light showcasing our students work.

Classroom Schedule and Flow: We would like for you to know that all of our teachers highly regard and consider the natural rhythms of the

children both as individuals and in groups to determine when and how to transition throughout the day. This will allow more time to be spent on a topic or activity or play experiences to enrich the time we have with your children. On a beautiful day, being outdoors for a bit longer or the need for more time building with blocks, could lead to a more flexible schedule and design on a given day based on the children's interests.

A possible schedule for our day may look as follows, with transitions occurring at the most organic, least disruptive times:

- Arrival and welcome
- Outdoor play, exploration, social gathering
- Group meeting time to connect, introduce ideas, topics, materials in the classroom
- Indoor classroom exploration including materials that support fine motor, Math concepts, Literacy, Science and Art
- Snack and story time
- Outdoor classroom exploration with concepts such as Science, nature stewardship, community, Art, gross motor development, Math and Writing.
- Dismissal and goodbye

Our daily schedule will honor the work and engagement of our students. We avoid a bell-time mentality as it can interrupt their exceptional learning.

All of our Little Stars Classes will include:

- Gross Motor Play
- Circle Times
- Songs
- Calendar
- Weather
- Questions and Discussions
- Math Exploration
- Science Exploration
- Art and Sensory Explorations
- Story and Snack
- Literacy Exploration
- Writing Exploration
- Fine Motor Skill Building
- Dramatic Play and Narrative Building
- Gross Motor Play
- Dance & Music
- Ribbons/ Balls/ Scooters
- Outdoor Play & Nature Exploration

Kindergarten Preparedness: Using the WaKids objectives outlined in the WaKids Gold Standards:
<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/wakids/pubdocs/characteristicsofchildrenenteringkindergarten-english.pdf>
on OSPI (<https://www.k12.wa.us/washington-kindergarten-inventory-developing-skills-wakids-1>)

We incorporate guidance in the following areas to ensure that students are prepared for future success:

Social Emotional: Much of the language we will use in class will be consistent with language used in schools throughout the Snoqualmie Valley, so students are ready to hit the ground running in Kindergarten. Topics addressed in small group settings and throughout self-directed play, will include:

- Identifying and labeling emotions
- Regulating emotions and behaviors
- Establishing positive relationships
- Participating cooperatively and constructively in group situations

Physical: Each day, we will provide opportunities for fine and gross motor development. Students will have the opportunity for gross motor movement on our studio playset, ride on bikes and toys, climbing wall and tons of other outdoor/indoor play on toys. The new downtown location has three wonderful outdoor classrooms set up for learning and exploration each day.

Language and Literacy: Students will be exposed to a variety of written and oral language expression. Each day, we will experience different story books, poetry, and songs. Students will be encouraged to use communication skills to express their thoughts and needs throughout their discovery and also related to text read in class. Using a multi-sensory approach, students will be encouraged to practice writing skills and write their name. In addition, students will be exposed daily to the alphabet and develop a phonological awareness.

Mathematics and Science: Students will be invited to rotating math and science centers that foster concepts such as counting, shapes and colors, spatial understanding, numeral recognition, natural world/science observations, open ended experimentation and question-based models.

Cognitive: We support the broad range of cognitive levels in our students by providing engaging multi-sensory experiences that work toward the following benchmarks:

- Thinking symbolically

- Attending and engaging with prolonged focus in a variety of areas
- Persisting through challenges
- Labeling, recognizing and recall
- Making connections between concepts and to real-world experiences.

Registration: Children who are 2.5 years & potty trained up to Kindergarten are eligible to enroll in Little Stars Preschool. Admission requirements and procedures are as follows:

*Registration must be done online, and all our forms must be signed.

*Students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis depending on space availability. Returning students and siblings will have first priority.

* Tuition is due each month on the 1st of the month and will be processed September through June.

*If your child is not fully potty trained, we are totally willing to work with you. If your child has a number one accident, we can help get them changed. If there is a number two accident, we will have to call you to come and change your child. A student should be able to get their pants on and off and get onto the potty independently. We are not a daycare and therefore are not licensed to diaper kids. Please make sure your child is well on their way to being potty trained before the start of the school year.

Procedures: At drop off in the morning please walk your student up to the door on the front side of the building.

Please plan to pick up your child on time at the end of the day. Pick up will be at the back side of the studio on the ridge and at the front of the building at our downtown location.

Tuition and Fees: Tuition is paid in ten equal monthly payments. Tuition is due on the 1st of the month. A late fee of \$25 will be charged if payment is not received by the 5th of the month. This includes credit cards being declined.

You must have a card on file all tuition is run through our secure online payment system.

Tuition is averaged over a 10-month period (September-June) some months will have more classroom days than others.

Attendance: If your child will not be attending class, please notify us by

email: office@bigstarstudios.com or text: 206-779-9337 if possible. You can also call the studio 425-292-3342.

Early Withdrawal: Application to Little Stars Preschool is accepted with an agreement to stay for the full school year: September through June. In the case of an uncontrollable situation that may cause a need to withdrawal early, these steps should be taken; written notice must be made one month in advance to serve as notice of early withdrawal. If no written notice is given, tuition will be due in full for the next month regardless of your child's attendance.

School Calendar and Inclement Weather: Little Stars Preschool follows the Snoqualmie School District calendar for all holidays, conferences, and weather cancellations. If school is cancelled due to weather, we will send an email out immediately. For conference days we will be using these for teacher planning and offering conference times for our Little Stars families.

A 2021/2022 Little Stars Preschool calendar is attached to this email. We regret that we are unable to refund tuition due to weather. There will be no make-up days for weather cancellation.

Illness: We do not want to have sick children in the preschool for obvious reasons. This year is obviously extra important to be diligent when it comes to any type of cold symptoms. If your child has greenish or yellowish runny nose, a cough, sneezing, vomiting, has a temperature of 99 degrees or above, or diarrhea, please do not send them to preschool until the symptoms have stopped for 48 hours or more. If we observe any of the above signs of illness, we will have to request that your child be taken home. If your child becomes sick at school, we will notify you or your emergency contact to make arrangements to have your child picked up as soon as possible.

If your child has a highly contagious illness or infection, such as Covid, Chicken Pox, Hepatitis, Mononucleosis, Fifth Disease, Whooping Cough, Pink Eye, etc. we ask that you not bring your child to preschool until 48 hours after they are completely free of any viral or bacterial infection and with a doctor's permission. We regret that we are unable to refund tuition due to illness. There will be no make-up days for illness.

If you, your child, or anyone you have been around tests positive for Covid please notify the studio immediately.

Our teachers will implement an even more rigorous cleaning routine, and all high-touch surfaces and objects will be sanitized regularly throughout the day.

Immunizations: Please make sure that your child is current on his/her immunization. If there is a possibility of exposure in class and your child is not immunized, we will contact you immediately to come pick up your student.

Please let Little Stars Preschool know if you have a child that is NOT immunized.

Injury: Little Stars teachers are trained in First Aid and CPR. Little bumps and scratches will be treated at school and reported to the parent at pick up.

In case of a serious injury, we will contact parents immediately or if needed contact the emergency contact person on file.

Behavior: At Little Stars Preschool, we nurture constructive (pro-social) behavior through clear communication and consistent daily expectations. We will use positive verbal cues and reinforcement and redirection when necessary. Should any unexpected behavior or safety concerns arise, we will communicate confidentially with families to develop a coordinated plan.

Clothing: Messy children are learning children! Paint happens! Please dress your child in play clothes and shoes that they are able to put on and take off themselves. (Velcro is often the best type of shoes!) Please send a coat and/or hat appropriate for the weather to allow an optional outdoor playtime. Also, please write your child's name in and on all belongings.

For bathroom purposes, please ensure that your child is wearing clothing that they can manage independently.

Please pack and label a Ziplock with a spare change of clothes that we will keep at school for accidents. Thank you!

Snack: Parents will be asked to provide a healthy snack for each day at preschool. Because of allergies **Little Stars Preschool is a nut-free environment.** We want your child to experience the feeling of independence, so please make sure they can open their snack on their own.

Field Trips and Special Events: Our class may have the opportunity to participate in school field trips and special events throughout the year. This, like many things, will be Covid dependent as we move through the school year. Parents/grandparents/nannies and sometimes teachers will drive the children and accompany all field trips. There may be additional fees for some field trips.

Holidays and Birthdays: Little Stars Preschool celebrates many national holidays such as: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Veteran's Day with parties, art projects, songs, and learning activities. Select holidays will be celebrated with a special all-school party. Every Little Star student will be welcome at these events whether they are registered for that day or not. We may ask for parents to help us make it as special as possible!

Arrival at School: We will open the doors for school at the start time 8:55am for the 9am-12pm school day. Please park and walk your child up to the front door. If you have someone other than yourself picking up your child that day, please let us know at drop off.

When dropping off at the ridge location please only use the spots marked 8104 (Big Star) or have no markings at all when you are dropping your child off in the morning. All of the other numbered spots belong to our neighbors. Thank you for helping us with this!

Dismissal from School: Please pick up your child up at the back of the building if you pick up at the ridge location. If your student is staying for enrichment, you will also pick up at the back of the studio on enrichment days. If you pick up downtown you will pick up at the front parking lot, same at drop off!

Pick up at the end of the day is in front of the downtown building and at the back side of the building on the ridge (you will not need to get out of your car at the ridge location!).

Only adults previously authorized (verbally or written) by guardians will be permitted to pick up students. Please respect this rule we do not want to be put in an awkward situation and are just trying to keep your kiddos safe.

A late fee of \$10 will be charged for late pick-up. If you feel you may be late please arrange alternative transportation for your child or let your teachers or Big Star staff know of your plans so we can be prepared. Please call (425) 292-3342.

Enrichment: Enrichment is an optional extra three hours to allow for more flexibility in your schedule. If you are interested in having your student stay for Enrichment, please register for the class online.

Communication: You will receive weekly communications from your child's teachers via Microsoft Sway newsletter. This will have important information for upcoming events, all classroom communications as well as

pictures and a peek into what your children are doing in the classroom each week!

Website, Instagram & Facebook Page: Lots of information is posted on our social media pages. You will find Big Star Studios on both Facebook and Instagram if you search us! Please follow us on social and always feel free to check our website: www.bigstarstudios.com/littlestarspreschool throughout the year.

We are adding a website that will be dedicated to just Little Stars Preschool. The new site is: www.littlestars-preschool.com

If you have any questions, please feel free to call at any time. We look forward to a wonderful year at Little Stars Preschool!

Thank you! Here is to a wonderful school year!