



**Dear Families:**

**Smart Kids' Child Development Center utilizes the High Reach Learning Curriculum to be aligned with your child's individual growth and development, and shared with you, our partners.**

**Individual Growth and Development:**

The Center will offer a balance of experiences that will address all areas of your child's growth, development, and learning. The areas to be highlighted involve – physical, social and emotional, language and literacy, and cognitive development. We also include the integration of the content areas, such as, mathematics, social studies, science, creative arts, as appropriate for the age of children. Preschool curricula provide opportunities for children to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for school readiness.

**The Young Child as an Extension of the Family**

Family and school represent the primary environments of which young children grow and develop. The family is the child's first and best teacher. Sharing knowledge with each other can provide us with background information about your child's unique learning abilities, personality, values, cultural practices, and wonderful individual interests.

The foundation for good parent-teacher partnership is frequent and open communication, mutual respect, and many conversations to understand what is best for the child. We at Smart Kids', value the parent partnership. The Center holds firm the understanding of the child as an extension of the family. While integrating the curriculum, teachers value the family as a knowledgeable, educational, and cultural resource, vital to the understanding of individual needs.

**Nurturing:**

The Center will provide warm, responsive caregivers to promote healthy early development. The caregivers will seek to provide educational, yet responsive, compassionate, safe, and stimulating experiences for your child.

## **High Reach Learning**

### **Individual Goals of the Program:**

The goal of High Reach Learning Curriculum is to provide an individual plan or framework to guide the teachers and children with the acquiring of knowledge to further positive growth and development.

### **We will offer the opportunity for your child to experience:**

- a theoretical, philosophical, and research based curriculum that is nurturing and facilitative of their individual development
- meaningful objectives for your child's learning and development
- support for diverse learners and the opportunity for progress toward the expressed goals and objectives (including features of the physical environment, scheduling, specific experiences, and adult-child interactions)
- a process through which the teachers will plan and implement experiences to facilitate each child's progress toward the goals and objectives; including avenues for collaboration with families and members of the greater community
- a means to assure that the environment, activities, and interactions children experience are appropriate by collecting information. This information is used to gauge a child's progress toward the curriculum's stated goals and objectives and to plan experiences to support children's growth and development

Each component of the High Reach Learning Curriculum provides a solid foundation from which explorations can be built and extended according to the interest of the children.

### **Smart Kids' - Environment**

Each classroom will provide a positive early childhood environment, the following practices should be observed:

- The classroom should be organized to foster exploration with the learning materials.
- Learning materials should be concrete and relevant to your child's own life experiences (open-ended but purposeful).
- The classroom environment should be set up for choices.
- Learning experiences should be planned so teacher-initiated or child-initiated opportunities exist in both one on one learning experiences and in small group contexts.
- Schedules here at the center should reflect active and quiet learning activities; large group, small group and individual learning time; teacher-directed and child-initiated activities; and indoor and outdoor activities.

### **Classroom Environment - Learning Centers**

Materials in learning centers are selected and arranged to promote healthy growth and development, pretense and creativity, foster involvement, independence, decision making, and responsibility. Children are given experiences and extended opportunities to explore by selecting and using and engaging the materials offered at each center.

*The following is a list of centers that may be found in your child's classroom:*

Sand and Water  
Art and Creative Center  
Literacy Center  
Library Center  
Writing Center  
Math Center  
Science and Sensory Center  
Block Center  
Dramatic Play Center  
Music and Movement Center  
Cooking Center  
Super Center (center solely supporting topic)

Each center is supported by materials to enhance areas of a child's development enhanced by child's play and teacher facilitation.

### **Outdoor Play**

Outdoor play is integral to children's development. Outdoor play strengthens children's cognitive development as well as their physical. Here at the Center, children will be able to enhance their senses and physical well being by spending quality time outdoors, and indoors via exploration, inquiry, and play. Significant outdoor/indoor physical play time will be incorporated within the schedule to allow for children to gain meaningful physical play experiences.

### **Communication with Parents as Partners**

Daily Communication – Open Door Policy  
Teacher Weekly Curricular Update  
Center Monthly Newsletter

### **Smart Kids' Community Connection**

We are all connected. Smart Kids' Child Development Center would like to consider ourselves the bridge to the elementary schools where we help facilitate your child's first steps on their educational journey. Through the use of community resources, and our neighborhood links, your child will have familiarity and access to local experiences as an extension of the Smart Kids' Centers.

## **Smart Kids' Child Development Center and High Reach Learning**

### **Infants: Bright Baby**

Bright Baby Activities are designed to introduce your baby to new experiences, concepts, and skills through interactions with the caregiver and to be shared with you. There are appropriate activities that invite cooing, laughter, talking, playing, singing, moving, tummy-time, signing, and reading with your infant.

Bright Baby experiences include: American Sign Language, Social Emotional Experiences, Physical Development, Language Skills, Sensory Development, and Yoga Movements.

### **Toddlers - Two**

A Passport Program, steps to success, is designed to have experiences emerge from children's interests and support individual developmental needs.

The curriculum focuses on children's interest by using the principles of **R-E-I, Relate, Explore and Expand, and Inspire.**

**Relate-** is a way to observe and interact with children in order that we are aware of their interests.

**Explore and Expand-** is a way to discover new materials, objects and language. We will know what children are interested in because we will be relating to them and will be involved in their explorations.

**Inspire-** opportunities that will develop more wonder and curiosity. We will provide the challenge that is necessary for new learning to occur and to keep occurring.

We will plan experiences that set the stage for toddler and two year old exploration.

**Observation** is essential to the growth and development of your child. The observations that will occur inside and outside of the classroom, will be formal and informal, and will occur daily, weekly, and throughout the year. We will be looking at what your children know and can do. The observations, interactions and time spent listening and reflecting will give us all information we need to know about your child.

## Three

A Passport Program, steps to success, is designed to have experiences emerge from children's interests and support individual developmental needs. The program provides a solid foundation from which explorations can be built and extended upon according to the interest of the children.

The curriculum focuses on how children, at three and beyond, know and wonder about things; the curiosity is captured in the curriculum through the use of **K-W-L**.

### **K-W-L**

What children **know**,  
What children **want to know**,  
What children have **learned**.

**K-W-L** documents children's learning throughout a topic. It is posted so that children, parents, and colleagues can all share this powerful communication tool.

We will plan experiences that set the stage for three year old exploration.

**Observation** is essential to the growth and development of your child. The observations that will occur inside and outside of the classroom, will be formal and informal, and will occur daily, weekly, and throughout the year. We will be looking at what your children know and can do. The observations, interactions and time spent listening and reflecting will give us all information we need to know your child.

## Pre-Kindergarten

A Passport Program, is designed to observe children as they participate in activities that set the stage for further investigation. The information gained from **K-W-L** charting will make up the combination of topics to discuss, explore, and observe.

### **K-W-L**

What children **know**,  
What children **want to know**,  
What children have **learned**.

**K-W-L** focuses on how children know and wonder about things; the **K-W-L** strategy allows classroom exploration experiences that meet children's interests and work on skills across learning domains.

Excitement is created by children immersed in the topic. The environment is enhanced to support the topic and the immersion experience is kept going by continually updating the **K-W-L**.

**Observation** is essential to the growth and development of your child. The observations that will occur inside and outside of the classroom, will be formal and informal, and will occur daily, weekly, and throughout the year. We will be looking at what your children know and can do. The observations, interactions and time spent listening and reflecting will give us all information we need to know your child.

## **Transitional Kindergarten (Fort Mill Location)**

Transitional Kindergarten is offered at our Fort Mill location for children whose birthdays fall after the school districts date for kindergarten enrollment.

We here at Smart Kids' understand that the move into formal schooling is a huge event for children and families. The partnership between school and families is really important during this time. As school readiness is a key component of Transitional Kindergarten, the teacher will create the environment for appropriate growth and learning. The teacher will also empower you to share in continued growth after your child has left the classroom.

In Transitional Kindergarten, many developmental milestones will be reflected through the classroom curriculum. Experiences and activities described within the teacher's lesson plan will be explored to make learning exciting.

In Transitional Kindergarten, Smart Kids' and the High Reach Learning Curriculum, will focus on very important **Classroom Collaboration:**

### **Teacher-Parent Collaboration:**

- Empowering parents to continue the learning experience in the home environment
- Discussing developmental milestones that are reflected through the class curriculum
- Taking time to explain why certain activities in the lesson plan exist and the benefit of these activities

### **Teacher-Child Collaboration:**

- Teachers embracing the learning moment and journey with the children through a myriad of topics to help them enjoy the process of learning
- Teachers entering into the process of learning *with* the children
- Teachers engaging children and being excited when they have a shared interest

### **Child-to-Child Collaboration:**

- Peer to peer learning creates an environment where self esteem and confidence can flourish
- Understanding that children create and grow while learning from one another
- Understanding children have the ability to create networks and interact socially in complex ways
- Children's sense of community is supported in the classroom
- Nurturing children's abilities to form strong bonds in the classroom with the development of kinship and belonging

## **Assessment**

**Observation** is essential to the growth and development of your child. Teacher observations of your child will occur inside, and outside of the classroom, will be formal and informal, and will occur daily, weekly, and throughout the year. We will be looking at what your children know and can do. The observations, interactions, and time spent listening and reflecting, will give us all information we need to know to support the development of your child.

**Our families are welcome to share in the Transitional Kindergarten program by:**

Viewing the displays of children's work

Reading the current lesson plans

Examining the curriculum

Viewing photos of children at work

Checking your family mailbox

Visiting the classroom

Sharing in field trips, activities, and experiences

Sharing information with your child

Sharing information with the transitional kindergarten teachers through conferences or everyday discussion