**Rich Beginnings**

**Early K Program**

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Kindergarten is a child’s first exposure to a learning community, where they form their basic attitudes toward learning, themselves, and others. Therefore, the Rich Beginnings New York State Registered objectives are to promote learning, foster intellectual curiosity, develop self-direction, and nurture personal and social growth. This Early Kindergarten program will benefit children who need the extra year before starting Kindergarten. This program will also benefit children who have a late fall birthday who are not able to start Kindergarten due to the district’s age cut off.

With a full-day program we can offer small group sizes that allow children to feel independent, yet able to participate and cooperate in a group. We present learning through exploration, testing, and hands-on approaches designed to meet the developmental needs and interests of each child. We challenge children to master and apply basic skills while learning in new situations. We recognize that children grow at different rates, physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually, and we create an individualized plan that is best suited to his/ her needs.

This Early Kindergarten program provides learning experiences that focus on literacy and math with imbedded social and emotional learning. This program also focuses on each child’s physical, social, and conative development. Our teaching approach uses meaningful learning materials and playtime that are centered around the children’s natural curiosity and desire to learn.

Early K curriculum at Rich Beginnings will include:

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY Objective(s): Through exposure to and immersion of spoken and written language, learners will develop an interest and appreciation for language. Activities in this area of development will include culturally sensitive and anti-bias goals.

MATHEMATICS Objective(s): Through hands-on experiences, children will be introduced to various mathematical concepts. Activities should augment problem solving and counting skills, and facilitate knowledge, application, and analysis of mathematical concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES Objective(s): Experiences will facilitate and increase an awareness of self-concept, social skills, and family and community. They should also encourage the enhancement of nurturing behaviors.

SCIENCE Objective(s): This area of activity will focus on promoting the growth of critical thinking, tactile, visual, olfactory, and auditory skills.

MOVEMENT/LARGE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT Objective(s): We will provide and facilitate experiences that will ensure the development of gross motor skills.

FINE MOTOR Objective(s): Experiences will promote the development of eye-hand coordination and enhance and encourage the growth of eye-hand skills.

ART/MUSIC AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION Objective(s): Experiences should further creative self-expression and promote appreciation of the creativity of others. Focus will be on exposure to various forms of art, music, and creative expression.

Early Kindergarten provides “the gift of time” to develop all these important developmental skills. Providing children with this extra year program will help build self-confidence and promote success in their academic career.

Detailed progress reports are sent home three times per year. Formal Parent-Teacher conferences are held twice each school year, to keep you well informed of your child’s progress. Teacher conferences are also available, at your request, throughout the school year.

Our Early Kindergarten teacher is New York State Certified to teach Kindergarten. Teacher’s Assistants also have a strong background in Early Childhood Education.

Tuition costs will be published annually, and include a non-refundable registration fee and tuition deposit, to secure a spot. Registration is limited to enrolled families until February 1st and is open to the public after that date.

Tuition is due by the 10th of each month for those paying by check. For families that pay electronically, a monthly or bi-monthly option is available. All tuition and fees are non-refundable.