
Building Blocks Nursery School

Preschool, JK and SK Classes since 1986



Baking at the North Pole December 2017

Newsletter January 2018

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. At Building Blocks we were so very happy with the children and how well they enjoyed performing for you at our seasonal concert. It is heartwarming to hear how much you enjoyed it too. We have some families that have been with us for many years and they tell us it is the highlight of the season for them to come to our concert. We also enjoy the time visiting with you and speaking about your child at school. Thank you to all the parents who participated with our fund raiser, Purdy's Chocolates. We made over \$1,500.00 which goes toward new toys and equipment.

Preschool Class

The preschool class starts their day in the 3 smaller rooms. They are greeted by Mrs. Sookhoo, Mrs. Nunes and Ms. Ryan. From 9:00 until 10:30 the children participate in all 3 rooms experiencing all areas including art and snack. Art is planned by Mrs. Nunes and Ms. Ryan with our themes in view as well as age appropriate skills. At 10:30 the children tidy up and break up into three circle groups based on their ages. Mrs. Freer and Mrs. Sanger join in the preschool class with Mrs. Nunes while Mrs. Sookhoo and Ms. Ryan go on to work with the Kindergarten classes. Mrs. Freer works with the older preschool children and Mrs. Sanger works with the youngest of the children. The children then go on to ending circle at 11:15 with all children who leave at 11:30. The children who stay for 3 hours go into the large purple room for additional play time and have their closing circle at 11:45.

The skills we work on in preschool include following directions, done through art and circle activities; turn taking, done through free play and circle time; fine motor skills, done through art, puzzles, work sheets and sensory; listening and focus done with stories and calendar time. Our aim is provide a safe happy environment for your child to grow and explore. The children are in small groups where we are able to provide a calm and nurturing environment. Your children are establishing a relationship with adults that they are able to trust. Your child benefits from small child teacher ratios. All studies show that learning happens in small groups. At Building Blocks children can anticipate what will happen with our consistent structured classes. We are always happy to speak to you about any concerns you have.

JK Class

The JK class starts their day in the large purple room. They are greeted by Mrs. Freer and Mrs. Quibell. Our kindergarten class is very structured. The class has a phonics component and the children learn sounds first as opposed to names of letters. The children in this class are able to read simple words now and have learned 25 of the basic 40 sounds in English. The JK class does daily printing and the children have progressed beautifully. All areas of academics are included in our class with Math and Science regularly introduced. The children are very focussed during their time at Building Blocks. The children in this class enjoy a small, calm class size of a maximum of 16 students with 2 teachers. From 9:00 until 10:30 the children have a calendar time, learning time, work time, daily reading time, library time and theme related songs and a story. At 10:30 the children divide into 2 groups to have snack or their do their art. The JK Class does their art with Mrs. Quibell. Art is planned by both Mrs. Quibell and Mrs. Freer. The JK class incorporates many of the sounds they are learning in their art time. An example is a fingerprint book where each sound has a matching fingerprint to go with it. They then go on to free play finishing with the large group closing circle. At 10:30 the JK and SK children combine and Mrs. Sookhoo and Ms. Ryan join the class with Mrs. Quibell.



"f is for flower"

SK Class

The SK class starts their day in the foyer classroom. Mrs. Sanger works and plans for this class from 9:00 until 10:30 focusing on academics and social skills. Students in SK have a weekly spelling test, journal writing, library time, grammar, math and science lessons. This class again has a small number of children where Mrs. Sanger can give children the individual attention they need. Many of the children are reading well above grade level. The children in this class enjoy a close camaraderie and are very comfortable and confident at our school. At each stage of development we see huge growth at Building Blocks. This is so very evident in SK.

The children take pride in their work and play and are very accomplished at this stage. Parents always let us know how well prepared their SK children were for Grade 1, no matter whether they go on to a public or private school. Many SK parents request we teach Grade 1.

At 10:30 the SK class joins the JK class. Mrs. Sookhoo works with the SK class organizing and teaching the art activities. Ms. Ryan supervises snack time and free play, and works with both JK and SK children.

Parent Survey

We asked our kindergarten parents what drew them to stay at Building Blocks. We would like to share with you some of their answers:

"I love that BBNS has allowed me to spend more time with my child during these formative years vs. all-day programs. I appreciate the 2.5 hours of concentrated 'study', because we can and do play a lot at home."

"Seeing my child flourish in JK, we were sold on SK."

"The quality of the program is well superior than any other public alternative, the quality of the teachers, the attention to detail that the teachers have on a daily basis. BBNS is a hidden gem in the GTA."

"I wanted my child to attend a school with smaller classrooms where he could get more focus on his individual learning."

"The long standing reputation and good word coming from parents whose children previously attended BBNS. I really like the more advanced "learning" based curriculum vs. play based public school system."

"We felt his educators nurtured him and taught more than just academics. We saw the value in the ratio of children to educators."

"The teachers could cater to my child's weaknesses and help strengthen them. There is a community feel and the teachers know your child so well."

"I'm certain the love and care and teaching they have received at BBNS have fostered their love of learning. We will forever be grateful to BBNS and choosing this school has been a great investment for the foundations of our children's learning."

- Parent of 3 children all attending our kindergarten program.

