

Waldorf School on the Roaring Fork Peas & Carrots Play Group

Welcome to the Waldorf School on the Roaring Fork's Peas & Carrots Play Group. The purpose of our program is to provide you and your child with a rhythmic morning in an environment designed to promote imaginative play. While the soft colors and unformed toys of the preschool invite exploration, the most important stimulant to creative play is the example of adults actively engaged in their work. While the children play, the adults work with their hands. We hope you will enjoy the handwork project we will be doing. As the children discover new friends and learn how to play in a group, we hope you will find other parents who share like interests. Perhaps our ideas, based on Waldorf Education, will support your parenting task by offering a unique approach to early childhood development.

Please feel free to:

- Ask questions
- Act freely in circle and play
- Socialize while doing purposeful work

As young children learn through imitation and example, they begin to do what they see others doing, especially their parents. As you follow the teachers' lead in circle, join in the meal, and "use your hands for good working," your child will learn, week by week, to join in too. When you are actively engaged in meaningful work, your child learns the dignity of work and the wonder of transformation. S/he is also provided ideas for imaginative play.

Rhythm of the morning:

- 9:30 Arrive
- 9:45 Welcoming Circle
- 9:50 Handwork Project/Free play
- 10:30 Snack time (including set up and clean up)
- 11:10 Closing Circle
- 11:25 Say goodbye

Clean Up

The signal for clean up is our singing "I met a Dusty Little Gnome." We do not expect the young children to help much. Rather, we continue to teach through imitation and example by putting away the play materials (large items first) with care and imagination. If the children participate in clean up, great! We try to work creatively by saying, for example, "The babies are tired and need a rest in the cradle" or "The horses are going back to the pasture." You'll soon learn "the place for everything and everything in its place."

Sick Policy

Children who have had symptoms of fever, more than a mild cough, vomiting, diarrhea, a very runny nose, or a rash within the previous 24 hours should be kept at home.

Inclement Weather

Expect a call from the teacher by 8 AM to cancel the class due to inclement weather.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are responsible for their children during class: please try to be aware of what your child is doing. Parents should stay in the room with their child. If you must leave the room for a moment, please take your child with you or arrange for someone to take care of him/her.

Discipline

“It takes a village to raise a child” is part of our philosophy. We take this to mean that we all need to watch out for the safety and well being of all children. Guidance should be gentle. Rather than ask questions, make a positive statement. “You may let Sally have a turn now,” or “Please come to the table.” Often diversion and attention can solve a problem and ritual can be a powerful tool to help children share. For example, the magic of “eenie meenie mynie mo” may appeal to the child’s sense of play and wonder and make it very easy to let another have a turn. If necessary, bring the attention of the child’s parent to a situation.

We do not expect “perfect” behavior though children do depend on adults for guidance and boundaries. It is our intention to guide with loving kindness and inner certainty. We want the children to experience these mornings as safe and enjoyable.