



Preschool and PreK Classroom Transitions

At The Pillars, we believe in building a strong foundation in social, pre-academic, and life skills for children, preparing them not just for kindergarten but for future success. Kindergarten has evolved to be more academically focused, prompting differing views among parents. Some advocate for a robust pre-math and pre-literacy foundation in preschool, while others emphasize structured play and opportunities for exploring interests.

Academic Success

Our preschool program provides a blend of these approaches. We utilize the Creative Curriculum and GOLD assessment to gauge children's academic progress. Each day, your child engages in a stimulating curriculum designed to challenge and excite young scholars. The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, trusted by educators for decades, nurtures confidence, creativity, and critical thinking through hands-on, project-based investigations. Because the Creative Curriculum emphasizes hands-on learning, we encourage parents to ensure their child has extra clothing stored in their cubby each day, this ensures children can fully engage in activities without worrying about getting messy and return home tidy and happy.

Routine Adjustments

Around the age of three children may begin to naturally wean themselves off daily naps. We understand all children are different and develop according to their own body's needs. Sleep requirements can differ greatly from child to child; however, it is a state requirement to offer all children a minimum of 45 minutes a day of rest time daily. For children who no longer require a nap, we will provide quiet activities, and remind them that they need to use indoor voices to allow those who need more rest the opportunity to recharge.

Social Interaction

As you've likely observed, preschoolers love engaging in imaginative play where they assign roles using imaginary or household items. This type of play nurtures essential social skills like turn-taking, attention, communication (through actions, expressions, and words), and responding to others. Additionally, pretend play allows children to explore various roles, from superheroes to fairy godmothers, fostering their understanding of complex social concepts. Pretend play allows children to explore different roles and model daily interactions they see within their own homes. Like making dinner or setting the table. Both boys and girls like to explore a variety of clothes, and toys within our classrooms. This enhances executive functions such as problem-solving abilities and helps children explore who they are.

Communication

Your preschooler now has all the language tools to share exciting moments from their day with you, which is an important part of their learning process. We encourage families to ask daily questions about what their child learned, who they played with, and any highlights. While you will still receive information through Procure in Preschool and PreK, updates may not be as frequent due to our teachers' dedication to delivering robust curriculum presentations and meeting individualized learning objectives for the entire class. Rest assured; our teachers are focused on preparing your young scholar for elementary school!

Preschool and PreK are pivotal stages where children develop friendships and explore the world with curiosity and sincerity. We're excited to present our enriching curriculum and dynamic daily activities to foster their learning and development. Please take a moment to discuss the upcoming changes your child will encounter as they progress into the Preschool/PreK classrooms. Understanding and embracing these changes will help support a smooth transition, marking the final part of your journey with The Pillars.

Preschool & PreK Room Personal Belonging Reminders

- Children should wear closed-toe, hard-bottom shoes, and breathable clothing daily to facilitate outdoor play.
- Please provide a labeled water bottle for drinking water each day.
- Your child's naptime supplies, including mat and blanket, should go home every Friday for cleaning. Please take home all bottles, pacifiers, and sippy cups as well.
- To prevent mix-ups, please label your child's clothing with their first and last name, especially items like jackets which can easily be mistaken and taken home by another parent.
- Preschool children still have accidents, even at an older age. Please make sure that your child has extra clothing in the cubby each day.
- Preschool children will come home with lots of take-home items including artwork, creations, and trinkets. We prefer if your child comes to school with a backpack so we can make sure to place these items inside each day.
- PreK students have a Friday Spirit Day each week. This is where they can wear their Pillars KinderReady t-shirt, showcasing to the entire school that they are finally one of the 'Big Kids'.