



WELCOME TO PINTOS

We are very excited to have your family with us. Now that your child is three, you will see new exciting changes in his/her physical and cognitive development. Three-year-olds are becoming more independent and self-assured. Their imaginations go wild as they start to do more in-depth pretend play and assign each other roles to play. Three-year-olds also start to recognize that they are not the center of the universe and start to develop stronger friendships. Three is the time when their attention span lengthens so they are better able to concentrate on more in-depth lessons and activities. These are all the reasons why I love working with this age group. I will provide educational ways to help all the children grow in all the developmental areas. Each child learns in different ways and at different times, which I take into consideration when writing and executing the lesson, plans.

To help you get to know me a bit better, I wanted to share some information. I have taught in childcare for 25 years and have CDA in Early Childhood Development. I have worked at Rocking Horse Academy since March of 2011 and have really enjoyed getting to know the staff, families and children.

Communication

Pintos@rockinghorseacademy.com

TADPOLES

As technology advances, so does the software available for Childcare Centers to communicate with parents. Rocking Horse Academy subscribes to Tadpoles. We use mini iPads in our classrooms to help us stay in touch with our families. It is essential that every parent has an email address in order to receive notices and information from our teachers. Tadpoles also has a convenient APP for your mobile phone devices. Below is a list of features offered on Tadpoles.

Parents

- Receive photos videos, notes by email
- Download or share photos and videos of your children
- Receive emergency alerts by text message
- View your children's portfolio using our mobile application
- Mark your child out sick or on vacation using our mobile application

Teachers

- Share photos, videos, notes to parents throughout the day
- Record meals, activities, naps, and more to daily reports
- Post lesson plans up to 4 weeks in advance
- Take attendance
- Record classroom visitations
- Mark children sick or on vacation
- View medical and birthday reminders
- View child allergy and emergency information
- View guardian and medical information

The Tadpole system is our way of ensuring safety and providing communication for all our staff and families. Families may also send a note to the teacher letting us know anything that might help us to understand your child better or be more observant about. If your child is cutting a tooth or didn't sleep well last night might give us insight to your child's moods or behaviors that day.

You know your child's needs better than anyone else does, so please feel free to call the school, leave me a note, email me pintos@rockinghorseacademy.com. The best time to call me is during our naptime between 1:00 - 2:00. I have also provided a notebook labeled Parent Communication for you to leave me messages.

Academic Goals

- ✓ Draw simple lines and shapes
- ✓ Be able to work in small groups
- ✓ Attend to a task for several minutes
- ✓ Work through disagreements using their words
- ✓ Recognize some letters and numbers
- ✓ Hold and cut with scissors correctly
- ✓ Sort objects by several attributes
- ✓ Count objects up to 20

Classroom Supplies

- ✓ Water bottle (labeled with your child's name.) Please wash and refresh daily.
- ✓ Crib-sized sheet and blanket (These items go home every Friday to be washed and returned Monday.)
- ✓ 2 sets of extra cloths, including socks and underwear
- ✓ Diapers/pull-ups, wipes, and diaper cream if needed
- ✓ Sunscreen labeled with name

Please label everything that comes to school, especially sweaters and jackets

Classroom Rules

- ✦ No toys from home unless it's a special day the teacher sets up
- ✦ Your child should come to school in closed-toed shoes to prevent injury both inside and outside.
- ✦ Please sign into the Tadpole device when dropping off and picking up your child.
- ✦ Check and empty your child's cubby every evening when you pick your child up.

Recess

We go outside in the morning and afternoon for 45 minutes at a time. These times vary if the temperature gets to be too cold or too hot. We will then shorten our time outside. We are required by state standards to take the children out during recess if weather permits. Please dress your child according to the weather, including the use of sweaters and jackets. Again, a reminder that our closed-toed shoe policy is for the safety of your child. If you put sun block on your child in morning before school, the teachers will reapply sun block to your child with the product that you provide.

Cubbies

There are two sets of cubbies in the Pinto room. The set of cubbies closest to the front door contains art work, important notes and reminders, as well as clothes to be sent home. Again, please check it each day so that we will stay abreast of

current events and fun, special activities. The other set of cubbies is located in the bathroom closest to the door. In these cubbies their extra clothes/underwear and shoes will be kept.

Eating

You may bring breakfast for your child if you drop off before 7:15 a.m. We will put the food away at 7:30 a.m. We serve morning snack at 9:30 a.m. Our lunch time is 11:30 - 12:00 p.m. At this time, you can buy lunch from R.H.A. or bring a lunch from home for your child. Afternoon snack is served after nap at 3:00 p.m. If your child has special dietary needs, please let us know. You will need to supply any alternate food or drink.

Nap Time

Our naptime is from 12:00-2:30 p.m. You may bring a stuffed animal for your child to sleep with on his/her cot. The linens should be brought on Monday and taken home on Friday to launder.

Illness Policy

When your child is showing symptoms of not feeling well, we will first give you a courtesy call to let you know that your child might be ill, and we will continue to monitor your child. When we call the second time, we will ask you to pick your child up. If your child has a fever, is vomiting, or has diarrhea, you will need to pick up your child immediately. Our policy gives you 90 minutes to pick up your child. We do have a 24-hour symptom-free return policy. Your child can return earlier if a doctor has cleared your child and we receive a note. Please call the school if your child has an illness that is contagious so that we can post a note on the door to notify the other families.

Accident Report

When your child gets an injury during school hours, the teacher in charge of your child will fill out an accident report. Included in this document is the time, date, place of injury, and how it happened. After reading the accident report, please sign and date it. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the teacher. After the accident report is signed the teacher will make a copy for you to take home.

Behavior Management Techniques

It is very important to tell children what they can do or what you would like for them to do. Instead of telling the children to stop yelling in the room, you can tell them, "you can yell outside or in a pillow." "Please use your inside voice." This works better for children, because it sends a clearer message to them. When the children have altercations, my goal is to help them solve the problems cooperatively and respectfully. At the age of three, children use "I'm sorry" as a quick fix so that they can continue to play. As an addition to "I'm sorry," I teach the children how to take responsibility for their actions. For example, if a child is running and knocks over someone else by accident, that child is responsible for helping his/her friend up. Then the child checks to see if the other child needs any medical or emotional attention to feel better. At last when both children are feeling good about how the situation was resolved, they go and play. If a child is consistently having a behavioral problem after I have redirected them, I will choose an alternative activity for him/her. This will allow me to help keep everyone safe and give the child work to do. Sometimes that child will be sad for a little bit after I have removed him/her from the activity. After he/she has calmed down, I will explain why I am choosing to remove him/her from the situation.

Pinto Benchmarks

Sensory/Science

- ✓ Starts to understand life cycles
- ✓ Starts to make predictions on what is going to happen
- ✓ Can tell two sounds are different (bell and drum, without seeing or labeling them)
- ✓ Begins to use measurement
- ✓ Understands descriptions (long/short, big/little, fast/slow)

Fine Motor

- ✓ Can do a multi-piece jigsaw puzzle
- ✓ Traces simple lines
- ✓ Fold a paper in different directions
- ✓ Can hold scissors correctly and cut strips
- ✓ Can get dressed by them selves

Social and Emotional

- ✓ Anxious to please and likes praise
- ✓ Enjoys "helping" with household chores
- ✓ Sometimes shows preference for same gendered parent
- ✓ Enjoys making others laugh and be silly
- ✓ Starts to play with same gendered peers

Large Motor

- ✓ Somersaults forward
- ✓ Stands on one foot and hops with two feet
- ✓ Throws balls over-hand
- ✓ Can catch medium size balls
- ✓ Walks on a line and can walk backwards on the line

Language

- ✓ 75-80% of speech is understandable
- ✓ Stumbles over words sometimes (usually not an indicator of stuttering)
- ✓ Loves reading and story time
- ✓ Increased use of descriptive words
- ✓ Likes to tell stories

Cognitive

- ✓ Asks questions
- ✓ Asks who, what, where and when questions
- ✓ Begins counting objects by using one-to-one correspondence
- ✓ Understands now, soon and later
- ✓ Can retell familiar stories and books

Self-help

- ✓ Unbuttons/unzips and removes coat
- ✓ Toileting on their own with few accidents
- ✓ Dresses self with little help
- ✓ Eats with a spoon and fork successfully