

# Trotters



**Welcome to the Trotter classroom.** We are very excited to have you in our classroom. The Trotter class is a Pre-kindergarten classroom designed to prepare the children for entering Kindergarten next year. The class consists of four year olds that will turn five during the academic school year. We have a student-centered classroom which utilizes *Scholastic's Big Day Curriculum*. As part of a Texas School Readiness grant, we will also be conducting student assessments at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. This curriculum is aligned with the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* which can be found on the TEA website (Texas Education Agency). As the lead teacher, my biggest priorities are to give the children the love, support and modeling that will help them mature and develop a healthy self-esteem, while at the same time challenging them academically and preparing them for Kindergarten.

## **Communication:**

**Trotters@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. If your child didn't sleep well last night or he/she is excited that Grandma is in town visiting, we need to know that information, so we might have more insight into your child's moods or behaviors that day.

Communication between parents and the child's teacher is vital. As a team of teachers, we try very hard to communicate with each other about what might occur before or after our shifts. The more you tell us about your child's personality and how you manage behavior, the better we can partner with you. If you want to call for any reason, the best time is from 1:40-2:10 while the children are napping. Our number is (512) 405- 3700.

When you drop off your child each day, please sign in by writing down the time and initialing on the clipboard located above the cubbies. When you pick up your child, please sign out with the time as well.

## Early goals include:

- Phonological Awareness-ability to detect sounds in language without thinking about the meaning
- Letter Knowledge-recognizing the letters of the alphabet
- Number knowledge-recognizing and using the numbers 1-20

## **Long term goals include:**

- Recognize and write each letter of the alphabet, both uppercase and lowercase
- Begin blending letter sounds to make words
- Count to 100
- Continue to build fine motor skills with activities that involve cutting, coloring, drawing, and manipulating small items such as beads.
- Categorize items using multiple criteria
- Recognize and build patterns

## **Classroom Supplies:**

We are asking for the following items for each child:

1. Water bottle with a twist top filled with fresh water daily
2. Sunscreen-non-aerosol or spray (permission slip required)
3. Crib-sized sheet and small blanket (travel-sized pillow optional)
4. Collapsible bag for nap items on Fridays
5. 2 sets of extra clothing, including socks, tops and shorts/pants-weather appropriate. Be sure to change with the seasons.

**PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING YOU SEND TO SCHOOL**

## **Classroom general rules:**

- ❖ Please sign in and initial the attendance roster upon arrival and departure each day.
- ❖ Take home your water bottle each day to clean and refresh it with water of your choice (Water bottles may only contain water, please NO juice, Kool-Aid, Gatorade etc....)

- ❖ Crib-sized sheet and small or travel-sized blanket should be brought on Monday and taken home every Friday to wash.
- ❖ Apply sunscreen in the morning before arrival. We will apply the sunscreen in the afternoon.
- ❖ Check your child's folder daily as this will have your child's behavior for the day as well as any important notes from the teacher or director.

### **Reminder of RHA rules:**

- ✓ Closed-toed shoes are required. They reduce the risk of injury, specifically on the playground.
- ✓ No food from home after 7:15 am. Food will be removed by 7:30 am.
- ✓ No toys from home.
- ✓ Drop off must be by 10:00 a.m. Any child who comes after that time, must have a Doctor's note or permission from the Administration. After 10:00 a.m. please check with the front desk before proceeding to your child's classroom.

### **Cubbies and Hook:**

Your child will have one cubby and one hook in the classroom. The cubby is next the door when you arrive and is used for holding student supplies and work. The hook on the back wall is used to keep jackets when the weather becomes cool. **Please label your child's items.**

### **Eating:**

You may bring breakfast for your child if dropping off before 7:15 a.m. We will remove all food from the tables at 7:30 a.m. No outside food is allowed after that time. We serve our morning snack at 9:20 a.m. Lunch begins at 12:00 p.m. You may bring your lunch and we can heat anything up in the microwave, or you can purchase a lunch from our kitchen. Our afternoon snack is served shortly after nap around 3:30 p.m.

If your child has special dietary needs, please let us know. **If your child has a dietary restriction or food allergy, you must provide written verification from a physician or a registered or licensed dietician.** RHA will not provide

nutrition for dietary restrictions or allergies. Instead, you will need to provide alternate nutritious food options for snacks and lunch daily. We will post a sign in our classroom noting your child's food allergy/dietary restriction and include a picture of your child. At this age, we serve 2% milk to the children. Please do not pack juice, Kool-Aid, Gatorade, etc.... for lunch. We will provide all children with milk and water during lunch.

## **Nap:**

We nap between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. We lower the lights and play soft music. We understand that by this age some children no longer nap. During the first half of nap, the expectation is that every child will rest his/her body; however, by 1:30 any child who is not asleep may read books on his/her cot. Our children sleep on nap cots and parents are asked to provide a crib sheet and travel-sized small blanket for naptime. You may also bring a small pillow.

Please bring fresh linens every Monday and take them home on Fridays to be washed. Rocking Horse Academy does not have extra sheets to provide our classrooms when linens are forgotten.

## **Recess**

Our Prekindergarten classrooms have two recess times built into the day, one in the A.M. (10:45-11:30) and one in the P.M. (2:45-3:15). We adhere closely to these times as long as weather permits. In the case of extreme heat or extreme cold, we limit our outside time to shorter intervals. For example, if it is in the high 90's we may go out for 10-15 minutes take a 10-minute water break inside and then return outside for another 10 minutes. Please remember to bring a water bottle with fresh water, labeled with your child's name EVERYDAY as it is essential that the children take water breaks during recess.

## **Illness Policy**

When your child shows certain symptoms to indicate he/she might not be feeling well, we will first give you a courtesy call to let you know what we are observing. If the child has a fever, diarrhea, or vomiting as per our policy and minimum state standards, we will ask you to pick up your child immediately. Our policy allows you 90 minutes to pick up your child once we begin trying to make contact. We do have a 24-hour return policy that states the child must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to Rocking Horse. The only

exception is a Dr.'s note for your child's return before the 24-hour period expires. Please call us and let us know if your child is ill with a contagious disease so we can post a notice to let other parents know about the illness.

## **Incident Reports**

In the case of a minor injury, such as a bumped head, skinned knee, etc.... the classroom staff who was present will fill out an incident report with the date, time, description of the incident as well as sight of the injury. These will be on the clipboard at pickup for a signature from the child's guardian. We must keep documentation of any and all incidents that shows that the guardian was informed. After the incident report is signed a copy will be made for your personal records and placed in your child's daily folder. Please see the parent handbook for information on more severe injuries. Be assured you will be notified immediately if an injury is more severe than the teacher is comfortable with.

## **Behavior Management**

Our behavior management system focuses on positive reinforcement, redirection and student accountability. (It is also the same system used in most elementary schools, helping to prepare students for next year.) Students will be made aware of the school's policies and procedures on a regular basis. Once the classroom expectations are in place, the student will be expected to act appropriately. We frequently reward and notice positive behaviors, drawing attention to students who make good choices. All students will start their day on green. When a student forgets our rules and/or isn't listening, he/she will be redirected, reminded and/or given a warning. If the student continues to make inappropriate choices after his/her warnings, the student will move his/her clip to yellow. If the child's behavior improves, he/she will be able to earn the right to move his/her clip back to green. If the student continues to not listen or follow rules, he/she will then move his/her clip to red. Once on red a note will be sent home explaining the child's behaviors. With appropriate behaviors, the student will always be able to return to green. Time Alone is used when the behaviors warrant. The student will sit apart from friends for 1 minute per year of age or until the student is "ready" to rejoin the group.

# Trotter and Bronco Benchmarks

<p><b><u>Social Studies</u></b>          Know and use directional words          Identify community helpers and their jobs          Understand the concept of voting          Identify and compare customs and traditions          Identify human needs and how to meet them          Learn to recite the Pledge          Identify the US and Texas flags          Learn and identify historical figures          Understand rules of home, school, public places</p>	<p><b><u>Language</u></b>          Write and recognize name          Know and recognize all letters of the alphabet (upper and lower case)          Know opposites          Learn letter sounds for the alphabet          Know book etiquette          Read, write and spell high frequency words          Make predictions, summarize and sequence stories          Know and can identify rhyming words</p>
<p><b><u>Science</u></b>          Use senses for observation and experimentation          Compare and contrast          Predict and reflect on outcomes          Use science equipment          Create graphs to find patterns and chart results          Identify components of the natural world          Observe and identify the weather and seasons</p>	<p><b><u>Social Interactions</u></b>          Work cooperatively in small groups and large groups          Play well with others as well as independently          Be able to share          Express feelings with words          Work with teacher one-on-one          Adapt to daily routines          Learn appropriate ways to approach and communicate with other children in the classroom          Participate in class discussion</p>
<p><b><u>Mathematics</u></b>          Draw shapes independently          Identify numbers to 30          Count to 100          Identify and complete AB, ABC, ABBA patterns          Know money and denominations          Learn basic addition and subtraction skills          Use and understand measuring tools and graphs</p>	<p><b><u>Physical</u></b>          Throw, catch, dribble, kick balls          Climb, jump, hop, skip, run, gallop, and dance          Learn to walk backwards          Run with arms in opposition          Engage in obstacle courses and parachute play          Learn to balance          Roll, army crawl, tumble, crab walk ...etc</p>