



Rocking Horse Academy

WELCOMES you to
CHARGERS 1

WELCOME TO THE CHARGERS 1 CLASSROOM. We pledge to do our utmost to have fun while creating an exciting learning environment in our classroom. We are excited to have your child in our classroom and are looking forward to sharing experiences with you and your child. In Chargers 1, we believe all children deserve caring environments in which to develop self-esteem, experience emotional well-being, and learn to form caring relationships with family members, caregivers, and eventually others in their community.

The Chargers 1 room is where we can lengthen our time for learning activities. Our students are developing longer attention spans and are better able to follow directions. We expand our time in circle time and go to the computer lab. Naturally, we teach the basics, like colors, shapes, numbers, and the alphabet. We reinforce concepts of sharing and using our manners. Of course, practicing our language skills is extremely important at this age. Finally, we work on potty training. Instead of asking the child if he or she needs to go potty, we just say, "It's time to go potty." "Before we can go outside, we need to go potty." "Before we take our nap, we need to potty."

As a classroom we learn through hands-on activities and group play. Our schedule also includes circle time, center time, tabletop activities, story time, computer time, library time, recess, and physical education in our gym. A complete classroom schedule posted in our class.

COMMUNICATION:

chargers1@rockinghorseacademy.com

COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

As technology advances, so does the software available for Childcare Centers to communicate with families. Rocking Horse Academy subscribes to Tadpoles. We use tablets in our classrooms to help us stay in touch with our families. It is essential that every parent/guardian 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.

The Tadpole system is our way of ensuring safety and providing communication for all of 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 didn't sleep well last night or is excited about a Grandparent visit or still needs encouragement with potty-training, telling us might give us insight to your child's moods or behaviors that day. Below is a list of features offered on Tadpoles.

FAMILIES	TEACHERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share photos, videos, notes to families 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

Communication between families 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 as well to better address your child's needs every day.

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 12:00-2:30 while the children are napping. Our number is (512) 405- 3700 ext 114 or ask the front to speak to the Charger 1 classroom.

GOALS:

- Using our words
 - Sitting at a cafeteria table setting
 - Drinking from a small cup without a lid
 - Using big plates and silverware
 - Potty training
 - Picking up after themselves (clean up centers, snacks, lunch)
 - Using our manners
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CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:

We are asking for the following items for each child:

- ✓ Water bottle--fresh daily
 - ✓ Crib-sized sheet and blanket (pillow optional)
 - ✓ Sunblock and a signed permit (you apply in the a.m. and we reapply after nap)
 - ✓ 2 sets of extra clothing, including underwear, socks, and shorts/pants.
 - ✓ Diapers or pull-ups, wipes, diaper creams (if needed)
 - ✓ Disposable or inexpensive digital cameras (Optional)
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CLASSROOM GENERAL RULES:

- ✧ Please let a teacher know when you are there to pick-up or drop-off. (We may be in the middle of a diaper change and not see you enter or on the playground.)
 - ✧ Please fill out your Tadpoles APP and we'll keep you informed about your child's day. Be sure to let us know about medications and sign those in at the front desk.
 - ✧ No toys from home unless requested by the teacher for a classroom assignment
 - ✧ Respect others, our belongings, and teachers
 - ✧ Listen and follow directions
 - ✧ Use inside voices
 - ✧ Use manners
 - ✧ Respect our classroom and the supplies/toys we have
 - ✧ No drop-off after 10:00 a.m. without a dr.'s note.
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RECESS:

Chargers 1 recess is from 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the mornings and 3:45 p.m.– 4:15 p.m. in the afternoons. Please wear closed-toed shoes to prevent falls. Mulch gets into sandals, crocs, and flip-flops and it's uncomfortable. Children will have easy access to their water bottles while on the playground. If the temperature is extreme, we shorten our time on the playground.

CUBBIES:

Your child will have 2 cubbies in the room. The cubby under the counter is for personal items. If your child had an accident during the day, you will find the soiled clothing in a plastic bag in the cubby under the counter. Please check for that daily and remember to bring a new outfit for our extra clothing cubby. The second cubby is in our restroom where we keep the diapers, creams and wipes and extra clothing.

Each child will have his/her own hook under our bookshelf near the Work Wall. Each hook is labeled

with your child's name, so be sure to use the correct hook for your child's jacket or sweater. Children often purchase identical jackets and sweaters.

Please put your child's name on the tag to avoid confusion and loss.

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING YOU SEND TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD'S FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIAL.

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 9:00 a.m. Lunch begins at 11:00 a.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 2:45 p.m. We supply 2% milk and 100% juice with our meals and snacks. If you bring lunch, please do not send fruit juices, Kool-Aid/Gatorade or other sugared beverages or candy. We also serve the child's water with meals and snacks.

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.

NAP:

We nap between 12:00 and 2:30 p.m. We lower the lights and play soft music. Some children need patting, and we do our best to comfort all who need that extra help going to sleep. Children this age sleep on our cots. Families are asked to provide a crib sheet and blanket for naptime. You may also bring a pillow and perhaps a teddy bear to sleep with.

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

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 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 24- hour return policy or you must have 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 families know about the illness.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT:

It is quite common for your child's behavior to change at this age for they are discovering new things and acting out more often. Some examples of what your child might do are biting, scratching, hitting, and pushing; however, let me reassure you, it is something your child will outgrow with redirection and positive reinforcement. We use stickers, awards, hugs, and praise words. Never do we reward your child with food. A behavior log is kept in your teacher's class for each child. If your child consistently acts out towards his/ her friends, we will ask to meet with you to discuss other ways to help your toddler. Redirecting and giving positive reinforcement at home will help your child better understand what is expected of him/her.

We do use time alone for more serious behaviors. Children will sit apart from the group 1 minute per year of age. As we allow the child to get out of time alone, we will get down on his/her level, discuss why the child was in time alone, and reinforce what is expected in our classroom, then the child can return to an activity or a center.

BENCHMARKS

Social Interactions

- Children learn to share and take turns
- Children begin to play more together
- Children thrive for consistency, guidance, and routine
- Children at this age like their personal space
- Children demonstrate a need for independence vs. battling frustration

Language/ Pre-writing

- Children speech becomes understandable and tries to hold “conversations”
- Children learn to trace multi-directional lines
- Children imitate “writing”
- Children begin to recognize more letters in the alphabet
- Children enjoy scribbling, painting, finger painting and play dough
- Children love finger plays, repetition in books, rhyming and flash cards

Math/Manipulatives

- Children will learn to manipulate puzzles
- Children will learn to construct towers using multiple objects
- Children will learn to string beads
- Children will count to 10
- Children will identify and name basic shapes and colors
- Children will learn to match and sort like objects
- Children will learn differences (bigger, smaller, fast, slow)

Science/ Sensory

- Children will develop a concept of time
- Children learn to manipulate scissors
- Children will be able to identify all parts of their body
- Children will observe and identify different types of weather
- Children will learn grouping and memory skills

Gross Motor Skills

- Children will learn to throw balls overhand
- Children will learn to hop, run, jump and dance
- Children will learn to walk backwards and sideways
- Children will learn to peddle tricycles
- Children will become proficient at climbing
- Children will learn to catch (eye-hand coordination)

Life Skills/ Social Studies

- Children will try to master the potty-training schedule
- Children learn to wash their hands and brush teeth
- Children assist with dressing (buttons, zippers, snaps, socks, and shoes)
- Children help clean up after themselves
- Children can drink from a cup without a lid