



Rocking Horse Academy

**WELCOMES** you to  
**MUSTANGS**

**WELCOME TO THE MUSTANG CLASSROOM.** We are truly excited to have your family join our family. We look forward to sharing many learning and growing experiences together. We are a team; we feel that family involvement is necessary to create a home-away-from-home atmosphere. When we work together as a team, wonderful things can happen. Ensuring that your child is comfortable in his/her surroundings is a great way to guarantee an ideal educational experience. Our daily schedule and weekly lessons are geared toward meeting your child's developmental requirements. During our large group time, we will have the opportunity to enhance self-esteem so that your child will gain the confidence needed to function in his/her environment. And during our small group time, we will be able to better target areas that may need more attention, for example handwriting practice. We want your child to move from spelling his/her name to writing out all of the letters.

On Mondays, we will choose a new letter of the week, and then on Friday your child may bring in a show and share toy that will be placed in our show and share box. Their share choice should have the letter of the week somewhere in the name. For example, if the letter is "B", you could bring in a bear, a ball, a Nerf bat. Each child will have a chance throughout the day to share with the toy with his/her friends during teacher directed times. Afterwards their share toy will be placed back in the box until they leave for the day. A complete classroom schedule is attached and posted in our class. Our goal is for your child to not only have fun at school, but also learn.

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## **COMMUNICATION:**

mustangs@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 family 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 is cutting a tooth or didn't sleep well last night 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"> <li>• Receive photos videos, notes by email</li> <li>• Download or share photos and videos of your children</li> <li>• Receive emergency alerts by text message</li> <li>• View your children's portfolio using our mobile application</li> <li>• Mark your child out sick or on vacation using our mobile application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share photos, videos, notes to families throughout the day</li> <li>• Record meals, activities, naps, and more to daily reports</li> <li>• Post lesson plans up to 4 weeks in advance</li> <li>• Take attendance</li> <li>• Record classroom visitations</li> <li>• Mark children sick or on vacation</li> <li>• View medical and birthday reminders</li> <li>• View child allergy and emergency information</li> <li>• View guardian and medical information</li> </ul>

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 and after our shifts. The more you tell us about your child's personality and how you manage behaviors, the better we can partner with you. If you want to call for any reason, the best time is from 12:45-1:30 while the children are napping. Our number is (512) 405- 3700 & ask the front to speak to the Mustang classroom.

Also, at pick up time please read and initial your child's behavior folder. The staff uses these communication folders to tell you about your child's day. You will also be able to see when your child needs things like a change of clothes.

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### **EARLY GOALS INCLUDE:**

- Identify and name colors
- Trace simple lines
- Begin counting with objects
- Follow Multi-step instructions

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### **CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:**

We are asking for the following items for each child:

- ✧ Water bottles with fresh water daily.
- ✧ Crib-size sheet and blanket (pillow optional) weekly

- ✧ One set of extra clothes.
- ✧ Pull-ups and wipes if needed.
- ✧ Sunscreen

## **PLEASE LABEL EVERY THING YOU SEND TO SCHOOL WITH CHILDS FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIAL**

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### **CLASSROOM GENERAL RULES:**

- Be sure to let us know about medications and sign those in at the front desk.
- Be sure to provide and replenish extra clothing, underwear, and socks. Label everything with your child's name, especially jackets and sweaters.
- Crib sheets and blankets should be brought on Monday and taken home on Fridays. If you are a part time student, you may want to do this every 2 weeks instead of every week.
- Apply sunscreen in the morning before arrival. Provide us with your sunscreen and a signed permission slip, and we will apply sunscreen in the afternoon.
- Take home your water bottle daily to clean it. And refresh it with water of your choice. Be sure it's labeled. (You can freeze a small amount of water the night before so that water is cool all day)

### **REMINDER OF RHA RULES:**

- ✦ Drop off must be by 10 a.m. or earlier unless there's a Dr's note.
- ✦ No food from home after 7:15 a.m., food will be removed by 7:30 a.m.
- ✦ Closed-toed shoes are needed to reduce chances of falling or injuring your child.
- ✦ No toys from home please, with the exception of show and share on Fridays.

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### **CUBBIES AND HOOKS:**

Your child will have a labeled cubby and coat hook. Children often purchase identical jackets and sweaters. Please hang your child's things on his/her labeled hook to avoid confusion and loss.

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### **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 9:30 a.m. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. You may bring 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 2:45p.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.

We serve 2% milk to the children. We often have children in our classroom with nut allergies. As much as possible, please do not send any food item that contains nuts for your child to eat. We do not have a refrigerator in our room; please take special milk/soy milk labeled to the kitchen if you need something different than what the school provides.

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## **NAP:**

We nap between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. We lower the lights and play a story tape at 12:00 while we're pottyng. In addition to bringing in a crib sheet and blanket, you may also bring a pillow and perhaps a teddy bear for your child to sleep with. Again, please bring fresh linens every Monday and take them home on Fridays to be washed. RHA does not have extra sheets to provide our classrooms when linens are forgotten.

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## **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 your 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 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.

The teachers in the Mustang classroom are looking forward to having your child in our room. And at any time if you have any questions please call or stop by and speak to one of the teachers in our room.

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## **ACCIDENT REPORTS**

We do our best to make sure your child is safe in our care; however, accidents do occur. All minor injuries below the neck; scrapes and bruises will be written on an incident report form.

Please sign and date this form at pick-up. When major injuries and any injuries above the neck occur, you will receive a courtesy call. In some cases, you may need to pick up your child.

## **BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT**

Our goal is to ensure your child is in a safe and loving environment. We have classroom rules to assist us in making sure that your child not only learn and have fun but also be safe. A caregiver may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction.

Discipline must be:

1. Individualized and consistent for each child.
2. Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
3. Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

# PRESCHOOL BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks are goals that we work toward in our classroom. Our lesson plans and every day interactions are interwoven with these benchmarks to best help in the development of your child. None of these benchmarks are set in stone and are only here to help guide us in our curriculum. Always remember every child does develop in a different way. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us or the administration.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Begins to show self-control by following classroom rules.
- ✓ Begins to be responsible for individual behavior and actions.
- ✓ Begins to show greater ability to control intense feelings (example: anger)

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Begins to share and cooperate with others in-group activities.
- ✓ Begins to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas through language as well as through gestures and actions.
- ✓ Demonstrates one or more expectable strategies for initiating, entering, or sustaining play with classmates.

## LANGUAGE AND EARLY LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

### Listening Comprehension

- ✓ Listens with increasing attention.
- ✓ Listens for different purposes (example: to learn what happened in a story to receive instructions, to converse with an adult or peer.)

### Speech Production and Speech Discrimination

- ✓ Produces speech sounds with increasing ease accuracy.

### Vocabulary

- ✓ Shows a steady increase in listening and speaking vocabulary.
- ✓ Uses new vocabulary in everyday communication.

### Verbal expression

- ✓ Uses language for a variety of purposes.
- ✓ Uses sentences of increasing length and grammatical complexity in everyday speech.
- ✓ Uses language to express common routines and familiar scripts.

### Letter Knowledge and Early Word Recognition

- ✓ Begins to associate the names of letters with their shapes
- ✓ Identifies 10 or more printed alphabet letters
- ✓ Recognize all letters in first name

### Word Expression

- ✓ Attempts to write first name
- ✓ Knows how to verbally spell first name
- ✓ Attempts to connect the sounds in a word with its letter forms

## **MATHEMATICS**

### Numbers and Operations

- ✓ Counts by ones to 10 or higher.
- ✓ Counts concrete objects to five or higher.

### Geometry and Spatial Sense

- ✓ Begins to recognize, describe, and name shapes (examples: circles, triangles, and rectangles.)
- ✓ Begins to use words that indicate where things are in space (example: besides, inside, above, below)

### Classification and Data Collection

- ✓ Matches objects that are alike.
- ✓ Describes similarities and differences between objects.

## **SCIENCE**

### Science Processes

- ✓ Begins to demonstrate safe practices and appropriate use of materials.
- ✓ Describes observations.

### Science Concepts

- ✓ Begins to observe changes in size, color, position, weather, and sound.

## **SOCIAL SKILLS**

### Individual Culture and Community

- ✓ Shares ideas and takes turns listening and speaking.
- ✓ Identifies and follows classroom rules.
- ✓ Cooperates with others in joint activities.

## **HISTORY**

- ✓ Identifies common events and routines.
- ✓ Begins to categorize time intervals using words (example: snack time, story time.)

## **GEOGRAPHY**

- ✓ Begins to use words to indicate relative locations (example: front, back, near.)
- ✓ Identifies common features of the local landscape (example: houses, buildings, streets.)

## **FINE ART**

### Art

- ✓ Uses a variety of materials to create original work.
- ✓ Uses different colors, surface textures, and shapes to create form and meaning.

### Music

- ✓ Participates in classroom music activities.

### Dramatic Play

- ✓ Begins to create or recreate stories, moods, or experiences through dramatic representations.
- ✓ Begins to engage in dramatic play with others.