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LANCASTER FAMILY YMCA EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY PRE-K COUNTS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What hours and days of the week does the Pre-K Counts program run?

A: The program follows the School District of Lancaster Calendar. The program is Monday through Friday and the hours are 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Q: What supplies would I need to bring for my child?

A: Each child should have a change of clothing appropriate for the season, and a blanket and/or pillow for nap time. Please label all personal items with your child's first and last name.

Q: How are the children grouped and what is the ratio?

A: Children are placed in a group with others of their age. The ratio in each room is 1 staff for 10 children. A minimum of two staff are present in the building at all times regardless of the number of children.

Q: What activities are provided throughout the day?

A: Each day the children will experience gross motor play either at the park near the Early Learning Academy or the YMCA gymnasium. They will also participate in process art, exploratory play, fine motor activities, reading, language development, math and structured free play. We follow the Creative Curriculum and the P.A.T.H.'s curriculum.

Q: What clearances and experience/training do your care givers have?

A: All employees complete Child Abuse, Criminal and FBI Fingerprint clearances.

All employees are required to have no less than their high school diploma and one year of child care experience. We have three levels of staff: Aide, Assistant Group Supervisor and Group Supervisor. Each staff meets, and often exceeds, the PA State requirements in both education and experience.

All employees receive on-going training annually in Early Childhood Education as well as First Aid, CPR/AED, Fire Safety, Child Abuse Prevention/Detection, Water Safety and Emergency procedures.

QUESTIONS?

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Q: Who is eligible for this program?

A: Potty trained children who are three to four years old by 9/1 of the school year. You must also be a resident of the School District of Lancaster and meet the financial requirements to be qualified.

Q: Is the center licensed?

A: We are licensed annually by the Department of Human Services. A copy of the State regulations and our license can be obtained in the Director's office.

Q: Does a child have to be potty-trained?

A: All children must be fully potty-trained prior to enrollment.

Q: What is your illness policy?

A: We require that you keep your child home if he/she has any of the following:

- Fever of 101 or higher (within the past 24 hours)
- Undetermined rash
- Symptoms of a contagious disease (i.e. chicken pox, pink eye, the flu, lice)
- If we notice any of the above while your child is in our care you will be contacted and would need to pick your child up within one hour. For contagious illness we post signs so that parents are aware. These signs do not mention the child's name.

Q: How do you discipline?

A: We always refer to our Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility when correcting a child. We use a three warning system and are diligent in communicating all incidents to parents so that we can work together to solve behavior needs.

Q: Is there an outside play area? Do children use it every day?

A: There is not a playground on site, but we will walk daily to Linear Park, located a block away off of Harrisburg Avenue. We will also utilize the City Center YMCA gymnasium.

Q: Do you have an emergency plan?

A: Yes. Our Emergency Action Plan is posted in the Center and an information sheet is provided to all parents indicating our steps and relocation sites.