

KinderArt Preschool and Daycare

Inspiring Confident Enthusiastic Learners!

If you are looking for a safe, secure, home away from home for your child, where he or she can play, learn and grow, then look no further. At KinderArt, we have designed a warm wonderful environment that will nurture your child, helping his or her body and mind develop.

We know that babies and toddlers learn best in the context of meaningful, caring relationships with adults. Our skilled and loving teachers know this and artfully turn caretaking routines into teaching opportunities. We begin by nurturing your child's blossoming sense of self, while providing one-on-one early learning experiences during care-giving routines like diapering and feeding. Teachers also base their daily lesson plan on your child's unique individual needs and developmental level. Each day your child will have opportunities to practice many emerging skills related to large and small motor development, social/emotional skills, cognitive and language development.

KinderArt's Philosophy for Infants and Toddlers

The curriculum in the Infant/Toddler program is based on the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS). The RIELDS is based on the rationale that:

“From birth, children are curious and motivated to learn. As they grow and learn, their brains change dramatically, especially during the first three years of life. These changes are influenced by genetics and environmental experiences (including relationships and physical conditions) as children develop in realms of thinking, speaking, behaving, and reasoning. (Kupcha-Szrom, 2011; Center on the Developing Child, 2012) By interacting with their world, young children make discoveries, figure out how things work, try out new behaviors, learn social rules, and solve problems. High-quality early learning and relationships enhance their development in every way: social, cognitive, linguistic, artistic, and physical. When they actively explore environments and materials, children build concept knowledge and thinking skills. When they are able to develop nurturing and supportive relationships with caregivers (their parent or other primary caregiver, adult family members, and other familiar adults), childcare providers, and teachers, they are also laying a solid foundation for learning. (National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2004) Early development across all domains secures this foundation for a child's later success in school and in life. (Maine Department of Education, 2005)

Early learning standards articulate shared expectations for what young children should know and be able to do. Further, they provide a common language for measuring progress toward achieving specific learning goals. (Kendall, 2003; Kagan & Scott-Little, 2004) *Charting a Course for Success in the Ocean State: Rhode Island's Early Learning and Development Standards* (hereafter, *The Standards*) outlines early learning expectations at key benchmarks, from birth to 60 months of age.

While presented in a stand-alone document, these standards should not be considered in isolation. They comprise one key element of the state's early learning system and have been strategically designed to work in conjunction with other parts of the system —

assessment, curriculum, professional development, program standards, and workforce competencies. The Standards are designed to promote high-quality care and education for the state's youngest children, including those at risk for entering kindergarten without adequate foundations for success. In this way, the document serves as a valuable resource to the entire early care and education community."

The curriculum is implemented through play and opportunity for growth, as your child learns about self and others, moving, communicating and about the world. Each day your child will be engaged in developmentally appropriate activities including, stories, songs, rhymes, repetitious language development, play time, as well as varied music, exercise and physical stimulation.

Infants

The Sweet Pea room at KinderArt is a bright and beautifully furnished room. Each child will be provided with a crib and a place to store his or her daily supplies like diapers, wipes, bibs, changes of clothing, etc. There are high chairs, books and toys, mirrors, play mats, soft blocks and climbers. The room is also furnished with rocking chairs so your baby can be snuggled and rocked at nap and/or feeding time.

Toys are safe and sanitized daily. Routines such as care, meals and naptimes are predictable and are personalized, based on your baby's individual needs. Records are kept daily so you have a detailed snapshot of your child's day.

In the Sweet Pea class there are 6 children with two caring supportive staff on duty each day. To be eligible for the Sweet Peas classroom, your baby must be between 6 weeks and 24 months old.

Toddlers

KinderArt's goal is to stimulate children's innate sense of self-motivation, expand on their enthusiasm for learning, and help them acquire competence and high self-esteem through a variety of artistic expressions. Our Little Lamb class incorporates an integrated curriculum that promotes learning primarily through music, art, dramatic play, dance, special projects, learning centers, and outdoor play and adventure.

Two caring and supportive staff members oversee a class of 12 children, allowing for individual attention and loving trust to develop between your child and his or her teachers. Teachers act as facilitators and motivators providing a stimulating environment and clear boundaries where children learn and grow at their own individual pace. At KinderArt, we believe that children who are exposed to learning in a positive and creative fashion will acquire a joy of education that will serve as a firm foundation for their future academic years. Children eligible for the Little Lambs Classroom must be 18 to 36 months old

About the Administrative Team

Nicole Elliott (Director) has been a part of KinderArt since 2015. Nicole's involvement began when she enrolled her son in the infant program and personally witnessed the impact it had on his growth and development. She received in BA from Assumption College majoring in Psychology with a concentration in Education. Nicole has years of experience working with young children of all various needs and developmental levels.

Nicole is the mother of two young children, Evan, who is 4, and Amalia who is 2 both who are currently attending KinderArt.

Stephanie Grant (Education Coordinator) Stephanie has been teaching preschool for 16 years and came to KinderArt in 2008. She graduated from Rhode Island College with a double major in Elementary Education and Psychology and has earned Rhode Island Certification in Early Childhood Education.

Stephanie is the mother of two children, Kaitlyn, who is 12, and Ryan who is 8 both children are KinderArt alumna. Thanks to their time at KinderArt, they have acquired a thirst for learning.

Nut Free Zone

KinderArt is a nut free school. This means that at no time should a parent send any foods containing peanuts or tree nuts into school. Any items with peanuts or tree nuts in the list of ingredients, any item that may contain traces of peanuts or tree nuts or is manufactured in a facility that also manufactures peanut or tree nut products, is considered to contain peanuts or tree nuts.

This policy is in place for the safety of our students who suffer from peanut and tree nut allergies. In many cases, this allergy may be life-threatening. It is one of the few allergies not set off by ingestion alone. If a child suffering from peanut and tree nut allergies is exposed to the oil from the nuts, it can be enough to set off a reaction as mild as a rash or as severe as anaphylactic shock.

There may be other food allergies in your child's classroom. These allergies will only need to be addressed should you decide to provide baked goods to your child's class either as a snack or to celebrate a birthday. Please be sure to check with your child's teacher to be sure there are no other restrictions in the classroom.

Illness

When children are ill, we ask that you keep them home from school. A child will be considered ill if showing any sign of fever, vomiting or diarrhea. If a child develops these symptoms while at school the parents will be called to pick up the child at that time. Students experiencing vomiting, fever or diarrhea must remain at home until they are symptom free for 24 hours without medications (Tylenol, Motrin, Immodium AD, etc.). In addition, students must remain at

home during the first 24 hours after starting an antibiotic. It is essential that all parents strictly follow these guidelines to help ensure good health among all of our children and staff.

KinderArt will administer over the counter or prescription medication only with written parental approval and a doctor's written instructions. The parent must sign a written permission slip and the medication must be current and in its original container with the child's name clearly on the front pharmacy label. Loose medication or medication not prescribed to that child will not be given at KinderArt.

In case of a medical emergency, KinderArt will call 9-1-1 first and then contact parents. If an ambulance is required, KinderArt staff will ride to the hospital with the child and parents will be expected to meet the child there.

KinderArt follows all Rhode Island Department of Health regulations regarding immunizations. Therefore, every child needs to have had required immunizations based on their age, and a record of this needs to be kept on file.

Policy for Release of Children

KinderArt policy is to release a child to a parent. However, space is provided on your child's registration form for names of others authorized by you to pick up your child. If your child needs to be picked up by someone on your list, you must notify KinderArt in writing. Please make sure the person who is picking up your child knows that he or she must present picture identification. People can only be added to your list in person. You cannot call or send a note to add someone to the pick up list.

Procedure for Reporting of Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect reporting laws in Rhode Island require anyone who suspects abuse and/or neglect to report their suspicions to DCYF.

Substance Abuse Policy

KinderArt is prohibited by law from releasing a child to any parent or guardian, or to anyone substituting for a parent or guardian who appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If you are going to have an alcoholic drink before picking up your child, we must call a taxi for you. If you refuse to take the taxi, we are required by law to notify the police.

This policy is strictly adhered to.

Separated or Divorced Parents

Parents are responsible for providing and maintaining proper records regarding current custody, visitation, restraining orders or any other documentation that KinderArt needs pertaining to KinderArt students. Parents must keep these records up to date.

Babysitting

KinderArt staff is not allowed to care for students outside the classroom. Please do not ask them to babysit or care for your child(ren) after hours.

Family Involvement

At KinderArt, we believe that families are children's first teachers. We acknowledge the importance and the impact of having families involved in their child's education both at home and in the classroom. Family involvement has a much deeper impact the earlier it starts. Because of this, we offer many opportunities for families to become involved at KinderArt.

Throughout the year, there will be family projects sent home and invitations to attend events in your child's classroom. Each classroom sends out a monthly newsletter with updates on the happenings of the month. There are calendars available to help give you a glimpse into your child's day. Daily "love notes" will go home to help keep you informed of how your child's day went including napping, eating, diapering and activities. We invite you to come into the classroom and share family heritage and traditions with your child's class.

We welcome an open dialog between families and teachers regarding the progress and development of their child. Through Teaching Strategies Gold, an online assessment tool used by many public school departments, children are assessed on Social/Emotional, Physical, Cognitive, Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Language Development and The Arts. With TS Gold, we have the ability to track your child's progress from infancy through preschool. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled in January and May to discuss one-on-one, your child's individual progress. You may, however, request a meeting at any time throughout the year. Teachers are always willing to sit down and discuss your child's development.

We have a Parent Advisory Board which meets at least 4 times per year. The Board is open to all parents who wish to participate. In the past, The Board has been responsible for planning fundraising activities and special events, choosing where funds are spent, and giving feedback about our facilities and programs from the parent point of view. The Board gives an opportunity to voice your opinion and help to better our school. We value your input and invite you to join.

Lost and Found

To help insure your child's belongings do not become lost please label all personal items. This will help staff return your child's things to their cubby. We make every effort to keep cubbies neat and organized and to send your child home with their things, but we are not responsible for

lost or damaged items. If your child lost an item please check with your child's classroom teacher or administration.

Parents' Responsibilities

Parents are responsible for knowing and adhering to all the KinderArt policies and procedures as listed in the KinderArt handbook.

- Parents are responsible for keeping up to date on all information posted or sent home.
- Parents must supply KinderArt with a complete set of records for their child, including a copy of the child's birth certificate, and up to date physical form with immunizations. Records must be updated at regular intervals.
- Parents are responsible for providing formula, breast milk, and all food for their child, in labeled containers. Parents of toddlers are responsible for supplying a ready-to-eat nutritious lunch, and 2 snacks.
- Parents must review and make changes to their child's records every six weeks when there is a change in routine.
- Parents are expected to provide appropriate seasonal clothing: e.g. snow pants, hat, mittens and boots in the winter; and swimsuit, towel and sunscreen in the warmer months.
- Parents are expected to keep an open line of communication with their child's teacher, in order to better provide an appropriate routine, and learning opportunities for their child.
- Parents are expected to respect opening and closing times.
- Parents must notify KinderArt in writing if someone other than themselves will be picking up their child after school on any given day. Whoever picks up a child for a parent must be placed on the pick up list in person and will be required to show proper photo identification.
- Parents of toddlers are required to supply sheets, blankets, pillows, etc. anything your child may need during nap time.
- In striving to consistently improve our program, parents are invited to join our Parent Advisory Board and complete an evaluation of KinderArt each year.

Scheduling

KinderArt offers a full year infant/toddler day care program. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

KinderArt observes the following holidays and will be closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

School Closings

During inclement weather, please tune in to cancellations on NBC News Channel 10 to learn if KinderArt has closed school, we will also post the information on our Facebook. Sessions missed because of snowstorms, hurricanes or any type of bad weather may not be made up or deducted from a tuition payment.

Registration

In order to enroll your child, please complete the enclosed paperwork and return it to KinderArt with a non-refundable \$75 registration fee and a copy of your child's birth certificate and most current physical form with immunization record.

Registration packets must be complete and are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Tuition

Tuition may be paid weekly or monthly. Weekly tuition payments are due in full on the first day of care each week; monthly payments are due on the 15th of the month prior to care.

The cost for our Sweet Peas room is \$65.00 per day, the cost for our Little Lambs room is \$58.00 per day.

SWEET PEAS		LITTLE LAMBS	
If your child attends:	Weekly tuition is:	If your child attends:	Weekly tuition is:
T,TH	\$130.00	T,TH	\$116.00
M,W,F	\$195.00	M,W,F	\$174.00
5 Days	\$325.00	5 Days	\$290.00

KinderArt offers a 10% discount to active military and a 10% sibling discount. Sibling discount is placed on the lower tuition. Only one discount can be applied to an account at one time.

Early morning care is available starting at 7:30 am at a cost of \$7.00 per day and must be arranged with at least 24 hours' notice.

Please note: Sick days, school or family vacations, religious holidays, school closings because of inclement weather, or any other absence are not deductible from the monthly tuition payment.

For families who receive child care subsidy, KinderArt is a certified DHS child-care provider. For more information, contact your local DHS field office or call KinderArt at 847-0685.

A fee will be charged for each returned check. Pick up after 5:30 p.m. will incur a charge of \$2.50 per minute.

All fees are subject to change at any time.