



Frequently Asked Questions

Is Preschool SAFARI a licensed preschool program?

The preschool time of 2.5 hours/day is taught by a Licensed Preschool Teacher

What is the discipline approach of Preschool SAFARI?

We maintain appropriate behavior by establishing a strong routine with clear consistent expectations, administering consistent consequences and with positive staff interaction. We utilize parental assistance and classroom staff when dealing with inappropriate behavior.

What will the students learn in Preschool SAFARI?

Curriculum is developed to support and prepare students for the existing Kindergarten curriculum in Bloomington Public Schools. In addition, Preschool SAFARI will support your child's educational, social-emotional, and personal development, including language development, self-help skills, and skills for living in a diverse society.

What kind of food will be served?

Families may choose to bring a lunch or pay for one through the district food service. Meals and snacks are well-rounded and designed to introduce children to healthy foods and good nutrition. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily by Bloomington Public School Food Service in the school's cafeteria each day the elementary school is in session. Preschool SAFARI follows the school district's menu and adapts to a three, four and five year-old level. Preschool SAFARI and food service staff make accommodations and utilize alternate menus to provide healthy and age appropriate meals. Our snacks meet the Institute of Medicine guidelines for healthy eating. Families will provide lunch on district non-school days.

What is the Preschool SAFARI staff to student ratio?

Preschool SAFARI will follow licensing guidelines for staff-to-student ratios. Therefore, Preschool SAFARI will employ one staff member to every ten students with a maximum of 20 students enrolled in each classroom.

Will Early Childhood Screening be taken care of in the school?

Parents/Guardians are responsible for contacting their home school district and making an appointment for an Early Childhood Screening to be completed before the child starts in Preschool SAFARI.

Are immunizations required for students entering Preschool SAFARI?

Yes. All students will be required to have updated immunizations on file with the district before they can attend Preschool SAFARI.

What are the enrichment or recreational activities?

Preschool SAFARI will provide instruction in different cultures, art, music, and technology. Preschool SAFARI will also spend time in the school's outside playground or in the gymnasium each day. Other activities may include special events, classroom guests, speakers, and summer field trips.

My child is toilet trained, will he/she receive assistance in the bathroom if needed?

We expect students to be toilet trained. Parents/Guardians must provide a change of clothes in case of accidents.

Do you offer scholarships to families who cannot afford Preschool SAFARI?

Preschool SAFARI has two components. Preschool can be based on sliding scale per program requirements. Preschool SAFARI care accepts Hennepin County Child Care Assistance.

What is your security system for my child with parent/guardian pick-ups?

Parent/Guardians must walk their child into the Preschool SAFARI classroom and sign their child into the program every morning and out every afternoon. Children are signed in/out through an electronic system.

Do families receive vacation credit in Preschool SAFARI Care?

Vacation credit is available for two to five consecutive days, once during the school year.

How long is rest time?

Our rest time is up to 90 minutes long. Children are expected to lie quietly on their cot for 30 minutes; books are passed out for the remaining time for children who are awake.

Do I need to fill out any paperwork before my child is accepted?

In addition to the online account information, we need to have the following on file: birth certificate, immunization records, growth and development history, health history form, Bloomington Public Schools registration form, and the non-refundable registration fee.

Does my child ever travel off site? What transportation is used?

No

Can my child ride the school bus to preschool with their older sibling?

No, there is not an adult to supervise your child at this time on the school bus. An adult will need to bring each student into the Preschool SAFARI room and sign in and out inside the room.

Is programming offered during the summer or just the school year?

Early Camp SAFARI is offered during the summer; however, it would be contracted separately from the school year. Families will be able to register for the summer program in the spring.