



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.

Preschool SAFARI Care is certified by the Department of Human Services. We must follow certification policies which include training, ratios and has certification visits once each year by a Department of Human Services Licensor to ensure all policies are being followed.

What will the students learn in Preschool SAFARI care?

Preschool SAFARI care 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 is the discipline approach of Preschool SAFARI care?

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

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, lunch and snack 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 care staff to student ratio?

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

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

Children should be potty trained or must be actively potty training before entering preschool SAFARI, meaning they have:

- the ability to identify and verbalize the urge to use the restroom in a timely manner
- the ability to manage all self-help/toileting skills independently
- the ability to manage their preschool day without a pull-up.

Parents/Guardians are asked to provide a change of clothes in case of an accident.

We are aware that it is developmentally appropriate for children of this age to have accidents from time to time. In the event that your child needs additional support through toilet training, classroom staff and Parent Educators will work with you and your child.

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

Preschool SAFARI has two components. Preschool class is based on a sliding scale per program requirements. Preschool SAFARI care accepts Hennepin County Assistance.

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

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

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 quiet time?

Daily Quiet time 1 hour -1.25 hours

For the first half hour of quiet time, children rest on their cots with soothing music/sounds. After the first half hour, if children are still awake, they will be offered quiet/sensory toys at a table. Students attending preschool in the PM class will start quiet time before 11am to prioritize rest before their school day begins in the afternoon.

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.

Is Transportation Provided? Does my child ever travel off site?

No

Is programming offered during the summer and non school days or just the school year?

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