

Following Children's Lead in the Dance of Learning

Little Lambs Daycare has been in operation since the 1970s. It is a licensed non-profit child care centre operated under a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of parents and community members.

Little Lambs Daycare provides quality childcare for children newborn to age five. The centre is open from 6:30 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday. All the Early Childhood Educators are registered with the College of ECEs and are supported by Teacher's Assistants. All the staff at Little Lambs Daycare are required to have a Criminal reference check and a valid CPR and First Aid certificate. Little Lambs Daycare supports and encourages all staff to attend workshops and seminars so that everyone is up to date with the most recent teachings of the Early Childcare Education program. Most recently, staff focused on workshops that teach the importance of play and how to best facilitate the children in our emergent curriculum program – an engaging play-based educational program. The Full-Day Kindergarten program which will be introduced at all of our local schools by 2014-2015 also follows the teachings of a play-based educational program. The mission at Little Lambs Daycare is to empower children intellectually, socially and emotionally providing them with the necessary tools to continue their life's journey with confidence.

All children should have an opportunity to benefit from the participation in quality child care and early learning. Children excel if they have a positive, nurturing and secure developmental environment that promotes intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth. Little Lambs Daycare offers a child-directed play-based learning environment, outdoor play in a spacious grassed playground and educationally fun-filled field trips.

Play enables children to create understandings of their world from their own experiences and exerts a strong influence on all aspects of their growth and development. Children become empowered in play to do things for themselves, to feel in control, to test and practice their skills, and to affirm confidence in themselves. Play is important for children's developing sense of competence. (Isenberg and Jalongo)



Teachers are supportive play partners that assist the child in quality play by providing an environment and materials to stimulate curiosity, exploration and creativity which leads to experiences and interactions to support constructive learning. By teachers making encouraging comments and asking stimulating questions, they are enhancing the child's creative thinking which will keep the drama going. Children learn from manipulating their environment, their interests and those around them. Programming is based on what children want to learn not what and how they need to learn.

Teachers observe the play that children are engaged in, the interests are documented and a supportive project is encouraged through materials set out in the classroom. Children determine the length of the project based on their focused interest. Projects can last as short as an afternoon or as long as a season. The emergent curriculum can be encouraged as soon as a child enters the Infant Room and spans all the way through their educational career at Little Lambs Daycare to the Preschool Room.

Play is the way a child learns what no one can teach them.



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