

## Teaching Philosophy

Small Fries Preschool is a part day early childhood program for children ages 3–5 years old. We provide a secure & comfortable learning environment for your child to discover and cultivate his/her own unique abilities & interests by creating a developmentally appropriate atmosphere of stimulation, opportunity, and discovery.

Classroom teachers utilize the *Colorado Early Learning and Developmental Guidelines* to develop both individual and group lesson plans. Our curriculum includes a balance of structured, teacher-led lessons and play-based, child-directed activities. Our style of intentional planning provides a comprehensive approach to each child's unique social, emotional, cognitive, creative, and physical development.

Children develop readiness skills in all areas of development through quality interactions with both adults and peers in the classroom. We teach self-regulation & self-esteem through respect for ourselves, each other, our belongings, & our environment. Children learn conflict resolution & problem solving skills through positive guidance and re-direction.

## Teaching Staff in the Classroom:

Our Early Childhood Teachers maintain educational & professional certifications awarded by the State of Colorado's Office of Early Childhood. Teachers complete annual training hours related to the health, safety, and education of children prior to each school year.

Using a co-teaching approach, teachers conduct observations & assessments of each child throughout the school year. Lead teachers host annual conferences with each child's family in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of each child's developmental learning process. Knowledgeable & compassionate staff strive to provide your child with a successful early learning experience.

## General Information:

City of Loveland Parks & Recreation's **Activity Guide** contains current program session dates and is available at the Chilson Recreation Center.

View the interactive **Activity Guide** at:  
[www.CityofLoveland.org/ActivityGuide](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/ActivityGuide)

### Small Fries Preschool Contact Information:

#### **Recreation Coordinator:**

Sarah Gagne, CPRP  
(970) 962-2467  
[sarah.gagne@cityofloveland.org](mailto:sarah.gagne@cityofloveland.org)

"Like" the Parks & Recreation Facebook page at:  
[www.facebook.com/CityofLovelandParksRecreation](http://www.facebook.com/CityofLovelandParksRecreation)

"Like" the Chilson Center Facebook page at:  
[www.Facebook.com/CityofLovelandChilsonCenter](http://www.Facebook.com/CityofLovelandChilsonCenter)

"Like" the Small Fries Facebook page at:  
[www.Facebook.com/CityofLovelandSmallFries](http://www.Facebook.com/CityofLovelandSmallFries)

*There is also a private group page maintained for currently enrolled Small Fries families only to share classroom photos and receive classroom reminders.*

**Read more about the Small Fries program and other tot/preschool classes online at:**  
[www.CityofLoveland.org/SmallFries](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/SmallFries)



***Our high quality, state-licensed, comprehensive program for children ages 3 -5 years includes:***

- ◆ Social/Emotional Development
- ◆ Kindergarten Readiness Skills
- ◆ Physical Development
- ◆ Child-Directed Discovery
- ◆ Teacher-Led Activities
- ◆ Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

***Located inside the:***

Hatfield-Chilson Recreation Center  
700 East 4th Street  
Loveland, CO 80537  
(970) 962-2FUN



## Small Fries Class Times:

### ❖ **Preschool Classes**

*(child must be toilet trained and turn three years old prior to their first day attending the program)*

Th/F Preschool AM class: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Th/F Preschool PM class: 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

### ❖ **Pre-Kindergarten Classes**

*(child must turn four years old prior to 10/1 of current school year)*

M/Tu/W AM Pre-K class: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

M/Tu/W PM Pre-K class: 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

## Enrollment & Registration:

Small Fries Preschool hosts an annual Open House in late January. Registrations for fall preschool sessions begin in early February. Classroom tours are available at any time during the school year.

### **PROGRAM FEES AND TUITION PAYMENTS:**

An annual \$30 per child, non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of enrollment. Session fees are calculated based on the number of classes scheduled. Families may pay the session fee in full or divide it into monthly tuition payments. No refunds or household credits are given when classes are cancelled due to inclement weather. Pre-K class fees are higher due to increased staff time spent on observational assessments needed in preparation for Kindergarten. Pre-K students participate in a wider variety of enrichment opportunities such as gymnastics and visits to the Public Library in order to observe them in a broader spectrum of environments for these assessments.

Small Fries Preschool generally follows the *Thompson Valley School District* calendar for major holidays, breaks, and all weather-related or emergency closures. Complete school-year calendars are set annually and distributed to enrolled families in the Parent Handbook.

## Mission:

Our mission is to lay a foundation of diverse abilities that promote the development of Kindergarten readiness skills including self-confidence, critical thinking, and a love of learning.

## Enrichments Opportunities & Family Engagement Events

Small Fries is located inside the Hatfield-Chilson Recreation Center in the heart of downtown Loveland. The beautiful setting of the City Civic Center provides us with access to a variety of both indoor and outdoor amenities. Indoor enrichments with Chilson program instructors may include gymnastics, yoga, Zumba, hand drumming, and more. Outdoor opportunities include nature walks around the Foote Lagoon and regular visits to Civic Center Park's playground. Walking field trips to Loveland Library and downtown Loveland cultural events connect us with our community.

We offer opportunities for our Small Fries families to engage in the program and get to know each other throughout the school year. We welcome family members and children's caregivers to visit and volunteer in the classroom. School-wide events including family picnics, parades, potluck dinners, holiday programs, and celebrations allow families to be a part of their child's early learning experience.



## Additional Activities for Tots & Youth at the Chilson Center:

- Amazing Athletes, Sports Camps, & Leagues
- Gymnastics & Tumbling Classes
- Yoga, Zumba, & Dance Programs
- Lego, Science, Craft, & Pottery Classes
- School Break Mini-Camps

## Daily Experiences:

**Circle Times:** These large group experiences foster self-awareness within a group setting and promote the development of self-regulation. Circle time opportunities also create a sense of community through singing, reading and journaling. Children review daily jobs that may include friend counter, snack helper and line leader.

**Small Group Lessons:** These teacher-led activities nurture cognitive stimulation & fine motor skill development. Children practice reading, writing and symbolic awareness as they become familiar with letters, numbers, shapes, colors and patterns.

**Learning Center Rotations:** Children interact with their teachers and friends in a child-directed setting that nurtures social & emotional development. Teachers intentionally design interest centers to support thematic elements of the curriculum.

**SEM Activities:** Children explore science, engineering, and math concepts through an on-going rotation of child friendly block, science, and sensory centers. During warmer months, our attached patio serves as an outdoor extension of these explorations.

**Books and Manipulatives:** Children develop a love of literacy by listening, sharing, and reading stories. Puzzles and other manipulatives encourage spatial awareness through use of fine motor skills.

**Music & Movement:** Phonetics, rhyming, recall, and recognition are taught through finger plays and song. Creative expression and body awareness are encouraged through movement and dance.

**Physical Activity:** Large motor activities such as group games, playground time, and obstacle courses foster physical coordination and core strength.

**Snack:** Children practice hand-washing techniques, respectful table manners, and appreciation. Independence is encouraged through the setting, serving, and cleaning up place settings.

**Clean Up:** Organization, responsibility, and care of the classroom environment occurs through a collaborative, community effort.