

Teaching Philosophy

Small Fries Preschool is a part-day early childhood program for children ages 3–5 years old. We provide a secure and comfortable learning environment for your child to discover and cultivate his/her own unique abilities and 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 and self-esteem through respect for ourselves, each other, our belongings and our environment. Children learn conflict resolution and problem solving skills through positive guidance and redirection.

Teaching Staff in the Classroom

Knowledgeable and compassionate Early Childhood Teachers maintain professional certifications awarded through the State of Colorado's Office of Early Childhood. Annual training hours are completed by all staff in the areas of health & safety, social/emotional learning and developmentally appropriate practices. Using both primary caregiving and continuity of care strategies, teachers develop consistent and long-term relationships with both children and families. Bi-annual parent/teacher conferences allow teachers to share their observations through collected data and assessments, providing families with a comprehensive understanding their child's unique developmental learning process.

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 guide online at cityofloveland.org/activityguide

Small Fries Preschool Contact Information

Kelly Rathbun, CPRP
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kelly.rathbun@cityofloveland.org

Follow us on Facebook

@CityofLovelandParksRecreation and
@CityofLovelandChilsonCenter

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

Learn more! cityofloveland.org/smallfries

- Small Fries Preschool Program (ages 3-5)
- Early Learning Preschool Prep Series (ages 2-4.5)
- School Break & Summer Mini-Camps (ages 2.5-6)
- Variety of parent/tot and preschool-aged classes (athletics, nature-based, art/pottery, music and more!)



A state-licensed and quality-rated comprehensive preschool program for your 3 to 5 year old that includes a balance of play-based, child-directed discovery and teacher-led small group activities. Kindergarten-readiness is ensured through the encouragement of self-regulation, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Chilson Recreation Center
700 E. Fourth St.
Loveland, CO 80537
970.962.2FUN
cityofloveland.org/smallfries

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 - 11:30A

Th/F Preschool PM class: 12:30 – 3:00P

❖ **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 - 11:30A

M//Tu/W PM Pre-K class: 12:30 - 3:00P

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 \$35 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, school breaks, and all weather-related or emergency closures. Complete school-year calendars are set annually and distributed to enrolled families in the Parent & Family 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.

Enrichment Opportunities & Family Engagement Events

Small Fries Preschool is located inside the 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

- Amazing Athletes, sports camps & leagues
- Gymnastics & tumbling classes
- Yoga, Zumba® & dance programs
- LEGO®, science, craft & pottery classes
- ... and more!

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 and 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 and emotional development. Teachers intentionally design interest centers to support thematic elements of the curriculum.

STEAM Activities: Children explore science, technology, engineering, art and math concepts through an ongoing 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 of place settings.

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