

# Play Date

Please read, initial, and return



Preschool & School Age

Darlene Wilson, Director

## Pre-Registration Consideration

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous experiences in group play (daycare/preschool/play groups?):

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Preschool is a very exciting time for both you and your child and often your child's first big step towards independence. We at Play Date Preschool strive for the optimal cooperative style relationship between your doors and ours. It will be in everyone's best interest to be certain that your child is ready for preschool at Play Date. The dynamics of all preschools vary from "small setting" to "large setting" and from less of a structured style to more of a classroom structured style. How can we tell which style is a match for your child and you?

The term "preschool" as we view it at Play Date refers to a structured group program generally best suited for the ages of 2 to 5. Age, however, is not a sole determinate, social/emotional readiness will play a greater role as to whether your child is ready for a large setting preschool or will need the gift of time. A preschool setting such as Play Date focuses on age-appropriate learning experiences and enrichment achieved through play.

Our philosophy of play and learning through play is our number one goal. However, certain curricula goals have been established as a program including facilitating cooperative play and interacting with one another, following a regular routine, respect and appreciation for the entire classroom environment and one another. Above all we will have an understanding of what is developmentally appropriate for each individual child and will work within those realms together; both parents and teachers.

### Basic Preschool Readiness

Age & Toilet training - the minimum age for preschool entrance, according to the California State Child Care Licensing, is 2 years of age and our current policy includes "Pull-Up" diapers. Toilet training is a practiced and not always perfected undertaking and we understand that occasional accidents occur. We will assist your child in becoming comfortable with the practices of toilet usage and are happy to work with each child's progress in this venture towards independence. We do not wish to pressure a child who is not quite ready for the potty but we will pay close attention to the hints. They will get there eventually, on their own internal schedule.

Parent initials

Developmental enrichment - your child entering preschool will practice expressing their needs to their teachers, feeding themselves, and partially dressing or undressing (such as pulling down elastic-waist pants to use the potty).

Your child will experience playing with friends and independently for short periods, focusing on one project or task for several minutes, following simple instructions, and sitting for a few minutes in group activities such as "circle time".

Parent initials



## Pre Registration Consideration con.'t

Separation issues - some children are ready to spend time away from their parents earlier than others. There seems to be an expected separation transition that occurs at Play Date that both parents and children will need to understand. Your child will go through a difficult and teary separation for approximately 1-2 weeks. This may occur initially at the first day of drop off. Although we find more commonly that a "honeymoon" phase occurs first and your child seems well adjusted from the get go. However, after your child's happy beginnings, the separation transition may begin and last for approximately 2 weeks. Once the separation transition begins parents will need to be strong and resist the urge to let your child stay home on a "sad day". This will only prolong the separation transition and be more difficult on your child. Remember, we are here to give your child lots of love and support through the separation transition and usually once we have muddled through it we are done. If we do have concerns on the emotional well-being of your child and we do not see daily improvements during the separation transition, we will certainly keep you informed on a regular basis and offer some strategies on how to meet your child's needs.

### Parent initials

Every child is different - at Play Date, we pay a great deal of attention to group dynamics and how to mingle a cohesive group of young children for multiple hours in the day and multiple days of the week. Group dynamics play such a strong position on your child, your child's friends, and their teachers that it may once again determine whether your child is ready for this large setting preschool. For some children, moving from a small setting daycare (6 children or less) to a classroom setting of 12+ may be very overwhelming and uncomfortable. Your child's comfort, safety, and guidance must be given the utmost consideration. If your child is responding to Play Date in a stressful way, then a larger, more structured preschool may not be a match at this stage in your child's development. A start date may be more appropriate at a later date.

### Parent initials

If you are thinking about preschool several months before your child would enter a program, you will be trying to predict their readiness and development. Remember that at this age, a few months can make a big difference.

It is so important that, you as parents, know you are placing your child in a safe, nurturing environment where your child's best interests and needs will be met. In our effort to ensure your trust and the trust of your child, the staff has developed a plan to help create a good match for your child's preschool readiness and to a large preschool such as Play Date.

We require that each child entering Play Date (even if you are a current Play Date Parent) attend two "Warm and Fuzzy" 2 hour visits from 8:30am - 10:30am. These visits are to begin a trusting relationship with your child before their first big school day. After both visits, a parent orientation and student start date will be discussed and finalized

### Parent initials



## Pre Registration Consideration con.'t

TWO WARM AND FUZZY VISITS FROM 8:30am - 10:30am (*scheduled the week prior to expected enrollment*)

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②

Date of Visit	Relative Who Dropped Off	Teacher's initials	Date of Visit	Relative Who Dropped Off	Teacher's initials
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*Cut along this line to keep for your records*

### Registration Requirement Checklist

Upon enrollment the following items will be part of your Parent Checklist:

- ✓ Forms to be returned one week prior to enrollment and your responsibility to update as needed:
  - All Child "Lic." Enrollment Forms and Family Quick Reference form completed.
  - Immunization form (Lic. 701) completed and signed by Pediatrician include a copy of immunization records.
  - Play Date Enrollment Contract signed and dated by parent(s) or guardian(s).
  - Log on to [www.playdatepreschool.com](http://www.playdatepreschool.com) and become familiar with the Parent's Club located on the lower right side
- ✓ Things to bring on or before first day:
  - Change of clothing in a Large Ziplock Bag: 2 underpants, 2 socks, 2 pants, and 1 shirt (no backpacks please)
  - PLAYMATES Class please bring daily supply of 3 "Pull-Up" style diapers.
  - Cold lunch with drink (we are happy to do a 30sec. zap of dinner leftovers, but please no Cup of Noodles or Easy Mac- too long to cook, cool, and eat. Also, no candy, no sodas.)
  - Outer wear according to weather- tennis shoes in summer, no flip-flops. (see attached Snow Clothes letter)
  - If your child requires a small "lovee" item for rest time it may come to visit preschool for 2-3 weeks while your child gets settled in.
  - Label all belongings with first name.** No last names please.
  - No backpack or specialty bag please. We have limited space and very often we have multiple children sharing a cubby. All that can strategically fit is a lunch box and jacket. (**Please note**, any snow clothes items - hats, gloves, mittens, pants, boots, all have their own special place of storage - not in the cubby room. Thanks!)

**Optional:** please consider Velcro style shoes for your child rather than lace up shoes. The skill of shoe tying doesn't developmentally occur until ages 5-7 and less laces is so helpful to your child's safety and teacher time.