



Preschool Handbook

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Introduction

Welcome to Salto Gymnastics Preschool. We are ready to offer a unique and exciting approach to Preschool Education that recognized that parents today want to provide their children with a valuable head start to education along with a healthy lifestyle.

Our Mission

Salto Gymnastics Preschool aims to provide a gymnastics and educational program that focusses on the total wellbeing of each child, in an atmosphere of movement, fun and play.

Our Philosophy

We believe that an active mind grows from a strong, healthy body. Salto Gymnastics Preschool provides a semi-structured, safe and positive environment that is a balance between child-directed and adult-directed activities. Activities and lessons focus on the whole child and therefore cover the areas of physical, intellectual, social and emotional development.

Our Objectives

- To teach the children Fun, Fitness and Fundamentals as outlined in the Canadian Gymnastics Program.
- To provide a quality program of activities that will enable the development of the whole child.
- To prepare the children for a smooth transition into Kindergarten.

Meet the Staff



Preschool Program Manager/Teacher: Kerri Cowell

Kerri is a licensed teacher who began her teaching career in 1995 serving children, their families and their communities around Alberta. She has taught primarily grades one, two and three but has spent time with children of all ages. Kerri finally found her home in the world of Early Learning in 2007 when she opened and taught in her own privately run Preschool. She has a very strong background in early literacy and self-esteem building and has been a part of the gymnastics world since 2008. Kerri joined Salto Gymnastics Preschool in 2015, as Preschool Manager and believes all learning can be fun and filled with joy and wants every child to feel success every day.

Kerri's Certifications include: Bachelor of Education (UofA), Permanent Alberta Teaching Certificate, Child Development Supervisor Certificate, Level 1 Trained in Gymnastics, Active Start Trained, Respect in Sport Certificate, Ethical Decision Making Course, First Aid & CPR Certificate.

Preschool Teacher/Assistant Level II: Brittany Mulligan

Brittany has worked in a variety of positions at Salto gymnastics since 2006. It was through her experiences as a recreational coach that she discovered her passion for working with young children. Brittany graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education degree, focussing her studies on Second Language Acquisition, specifically Spanish and French. She treasures her time spent in the preschool room getting to know the students and encouraging each child to achieve their personal best. Brittany believes that growth and development through discovery and movement is an integral part of early childhood education.

Brittany's Certifications include: Bachelor of Education (UofA), Interim Professional Teaching Certificate, Child Development Supervisor Certificate, Level 2 Certified in Gymnastics, Level 1 Certified in Trampoline, Active Start Certified, Rhythmic Gymnastics Trained, Respect in Sport Certificate, Ethical Decision Making Course, First Aid & CPR Certificate

Preschool Assistant Level I: Lori Hudson

Lori has been working with preschoolers since 2000 and has been with Salto Gymnastics Preschool since 2008. Throughout the years, she has taken Early Childhood Development courses, volunteered in hearing impaired classrooms, ran a full time, licensed day home and become a certified gymnastics coach. Lori is a proud mother of three beautiful girls, two of which now coach at Salto as well. Lori's loving and playful nature is always apparent in the classroom. She believes in helping each child find his/her inner artist and individuality.

Lori's Certifications include: Child Development Assistant Certificate, Level 1 Certified in Gymnastics, Active Start Trained, Respect in Sport Certificate, Ethical Decision Making Course, First Aid & CPR Certificate.

Programming

Gymnastics

Throughout our program we will enhance your child's health and well-being by developing the ABC's of movement: Agility, Balance, Coordination and Speed. These fundamental movement patterns provide the foundation for all sports.

The Tumbling Tots participate in a ten month Advanced Kindergym Program. The Tumbling Tykes participate in a ten month Junior Gym Program.

Through age-appropriate activities and utilizing our gymnastics equipment, children will improve their gross motor skills, flexibility, strength and the ABC's. They will also build self-confidence and social skills through their physical activity. We strive to make all physical activity a fun and exciting part of everyday life.



Literacy

Children learn to recognize letters and sounds using a well-developed program called Letterland. Introductory pre-printing and printing activities will be offered on a regular basis. Children will also work on recognizing, tracing and printing their names.

Math Readiness

Children will be counting on a daily basis and working with numbers 1-10 in the Tots class and 1-20 in the Tykes class. They will be counting objects, making groups and completing pre-addition and pre-subtraction activities. Children will also be making and repeating simple patterns and completing shape activities.

Socialization

Although this area does not have many planned activities directly related to it, socialization and relationship building is a huge part of the Salto Gymnastics Preschool Program and is focussed on daily. If you would like to know more about some of the ways in which we actively help children build healthy relationships and strong self-esteem in the classroom, please feel free to contact the Program Manager for more information.



Guidelines & Procedures

Discipline

Salto Gymnastics Preschool aims to provide a positive and safe environment for all children attending. The Discipline Policy is intended to provide a positive non-punitive approach to assist children in becoming self-confident and self-disciplined. Children will learn appropriate behaviour as well as learn to positively interact with others.

The Program has a set daily routine that is consistent and predictable. Clear guidelines and expectations are provided so that the children know what is expected of them. Limits and expectations are enforced consistently, in a positive manner.

The first and most important step in our positive discipline approach is to prevent unwanted behaviours by focussing on and acknowledging positive behaviours.

Once an unwanted behaviour does occur, the following steps are taken.

1. Children are assisted in understanding what the unwanted behaviour was and in coming up with some alternative, positive behaviours.
2. Children are reminded again of expectations for appropriate behaviours.
3. If necessary, children are assisted in rejoining an activity.
4. If a child's behaviour has become extreme and/or harmful to self or others and all other management steps have been unsuccessful, a parent conference will be set up with the Preschool Manager. The situation will be discussed and solutions agreed upon.

If, after exhausting all other steps and attempts to successfully integrate a child into the class, the Preschool Manager feels that Salto Gymnastics Preschool is not meeting the needs of a particular child, Salto Gymnastics reserves the right to no longer have the child attend the Preschool. In these types of cases, early intervention programs may be an option and information about these programs could be discussed. Salto Gymnastics Preschool is dedicated to assisting all children in finding a program that is the right fit for them.

Salto Gymnastics Preschool will NOT;

1. Inflict or cause to be inflicted any form of physical or verbal degradation or emotional deprivation.
2. Deny or threaten to deny any basic need.
3. Use or permit the use of any form of physical restraint, confinement or isolation.

Arrivals & Pick Ups

Please make all attempts to arrive on time, as not to disrupt the gymnastics/daily routine. Upon arrival, make sure to visit the washroom with your child. Lastly, children must be picked up promptly at dismissal time. Please notify the school if there is a change in who is picking up your child.

Volunteer Information

While volunteering is not mandatory for the Salto Gymnastics Preschool Program, it is both greatly appreciated and extremely helpful in delivering outstanding programming. There are many ways in which you can volunteer your time to benefit your child's programming. Please contact the Preschool Manager for more information.

Health Policy

Please notify the gym if your child will be absent from school. It is important not to send a child to school if they have the following symptoms:

- Thick or discoloured discharge/drainage from the nose
- Persistent cough or sneezing
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea within the previous 24 hours
- Headache
- Earache (this disrupts equilibrium and balance)
- Rash
- Discharge from the eyes/pick eye
- Plantar warts or other foot ailments must be treated and covered completely during treatment

If a child develops signs of illness during class time, parents will be notified and may need to pick up their child right away. In cases where parents are unavailable, emergency contacts will be notified. After illness, children may return to school if they have been symptom free for at least 24 hours or they have a note from a physician. If a child has been prescribed antibiotics, they may return to school 24 hours after the first dose has been given.

Emergencies

During a medical emergency, Salto Gymnastics Preschool staff will treat and administer first aid, as required. If EMS is required, 911 will be called first and the parent/guardian called second. All preschool staff are First Aid and CPR Certified.

Medication

It is the policy of Salto Gymnastics Preschool that we do NOT administer any medications other than emergency medication such as an epipen or asthma puffer. In the case of emergency medication, a medication form must be completed by the parent prior to the first day of classes. All medication must be in its original packaging.

Snacks

Each child is required to provide their own small, nutritious snack from home. Salto Gymnastics is a NUT FREE facility so please be sure that all snacks are nut free. Some suggestions are: fresh fruits and vegetables, applesauce, crackers, muffins, rice cakes, yogurt, cheese, sandwiches, lunch meat, etc.. Please DO NOT send chocolate, cookies, chips, candy, pop, kool-aid, etc.. Please remember that this is a snack, not a meal and avoid excessive waste by providing small portions.

Field Trips

You will be notified in advance of any field trips the Preschool is planning. Volunteer parents will be required to provide a 1-5 ratio of supervision. Field trips take the place of regularly scheduled class times. The Salto Preschool Program does not provide transportation to or from the field trips.

Toys

We do not allow children to bring toys from home to play with. This alleviates any hurt feelings when it comes to sharing with everyone and the possibility of toys being broken or damaged.

Dress

The children need to be free to enjoy their day of gymnastics, play and crafts without the hindrance of constraining clothing. Please dress your child appropriately in comfortable, durable and washable clothing. Please try to avoid zippers and buttons as much as possible and if a dress is worn, be sure to add a pair of shorts underneath.

Indoor Slippers/Shoes

All children **must** wear leather bottomed slippers at all times. For fire safety and hygiene purposes, this is **mandatory**. If you would like more information on what types of shoes are acceptable and recommended, please feel free to contact the Preschool.

