

Welcome Kids Co. at South Shore Families!

We are so excited to begin a new year in a new building with you! After two wonderful and challenging years, we are finally in our new space and ready to take our work together to a whole new level. We are in the process of hiring additional staff and are waiting for the delivery of just a few more items to put the finishing touches on our space. We are looking forward to our best year ever!

Here are some highlights from our summer that I am excited to share:

- ☼ Our summer campers learned to freestyle: In the water AND on the mic! Thanks to Rainier Beach Pool staff for excellent swimming lessons all summer long and thanks to all the hip hop artists, dancers, and enthusiasts who shared their art with us during our hip hop camp. Now our kids flow like water and swim like fish!
- ☼ The bike armada was going strong all summer. Thank you to Vladimir Rylski for his ongoing support and advice. Thank you to Cascade Bicycle Club for sending another excellent bike ambassador to teach us bike physics and safety.
- ☼ We kept our brains sharp through the generous loan of the Explorations in Math materials that are the core of the school year after school math program. We incorporated the games and activities through the summer. We also had access to 8 public school computers that allowed us to develop typing skills, play learning games and research topics of interest. Thanks to Graham Hill Elementary School, who so generously allowed us to use their Library and classroom while we were in between buildings.
- ☼ We fed our spirits through the performing arts this summer during Hip Hop Camp, and our Circus Arts Camp with Mr. Quick and Ms. Kyle. Look out for Kids Co. in the spirit assemblies in the Fall!

Looking to the new year...

This school year will be the best ever! We will be staffed with our same teachers from last year, Elinor Dofredo, Elizabeth Magallanes and Maren Neldam. We are happy to introduce Katya Minkina, our new school age counselor. John Benner will be Program Director. We are still in the process of hiring a new teacher to fill out our afternoon pre-k program. Until we find the right teacher, John Benner will be working with Elizabeth and the pre-k and kindergarteners in Room 132. We will be changing the routine in the afternoons, reflecting our new opportunities in our new space. Our age groups will still be the same: Pre-k & K and 1st-6th grades. Starting this year we will arrive into our separate age groups at the end of the school day at 2:35. Pre-K and K students will arrive into Room 135, just down the hall from the Kids Co. Main Space. 1st-6th grade will arrive into our designated space we are calling "The Main Space."

Our AM program will be very similar to last year's. We will operate from 7am to 8:20am in The Main Space. We will serve breakfast, offer enriching activities and homework support for all ages Pre-K-6th grade. At 8:20, Kids Co. Pre-K and K teacher Elizabeth Magallanes will escort Pre-K students to their classrooms and Kids Co. 1st-6th teacher Elinor Dofredo will escort the K-6th graders to the playground to line up with their classrooms.

Our PM program will take advantage of the new opportunities we have with our own space. Our Community Alignment Agreement grants us use of our Main Space, Room 110 (Pre-K) a section of the gym, the playground, a portion of the Learning Garden as well as the Library. Our schedule for each age group will be a little different, reflecting their developmental needs.

Pre-K and Kindergarten afternoon program emphasizes the High Scope philosophy and curriculum in a similar fashion to the school day program. We provide our students with ample opportunity to play outside, plan, do and review their activities and to work in large and small group settings. A major feature of our

afternoon early child program is the emphasis on facilitated play: self-selected activities with supportive and engaged teachers. Your child will have time to choose their activity with the knowledge that a teacher will be close by asking questions and encouraging them to think and learn more deeply through their play. School day homework is not emphasized in the same way as it is in the 1st-6th grade program. For pre-k and kindergartners, homework is another activity choice available to them, instead of a mandatory part of every day. We find this approach fosters greater success and a positive attitude towards homework instead of the mandatory academic homework.

The 1st-6th grade program also draws its philosophy and structure from High Scope, but as it can be applied to the more sophisticated skills and interests of older children. Even 6th graders can benefit from engaged teachers helping them pursue their interests and can discover the connections between what they love to do after school and what they have to learn in school! Students will also have the opportunity to choose between student selected and teacher guided activities. A central feature of the 1st-6th program is homework club. Homework club is a 20 minute period each day where students are encouraged to work on their homework with a goal of completing their daily assignments so families are free to spend lower pressure time together in the evenings. Students who have completed their week’s homework packet are able to do their silent reading assignments or write in their Kids Co. Journals until Activity time. Research shows that 20 minutes is the most productive amount of time for children to spend on homework. We have found that when children focus on their work, nearly everyone can be finished with a day’s assignment within 5-20 minutes. We do insist on focus though, and will extend the time for homework club if a number of children choose not to focus during homework club OR if they are on a roll and don’t want to stop working.

Pre-K & Kindergarten	
2:35	Arrive in Pre-K room 110, check in with teacher, go outside to Pre-K yard
	Outside time
3:00	Come in, hand washing for snack, Arrival Meeting
3:20	Snack and Plan (during snack, children make a plan with teachers about what they will do for activity time)
3:40	Activity and Small Group time.
5:00	Clean up
5:15	Review Meeting
5:30	Combine in Main Space for light pm snack
6:00	Center Closed

1st-6th Grade	
2:35	Arrive in Main Space, gather at tables
2:40	Arrival Meeting
2:50	Snack
3:10	Outside Time
4:00	Homework Club
4:20	Activity time: Teacher guided activity and self-selected activities
5:20	Clean Up
5:30	Light pm snack
6:00	Center Closed

These schedules are our basic routine, and will be changed to accommodate new learning opportunities like activity clubs, field trips in the neighborhood, and other special events.