

BUILDING BLOCKS, STEPPING STONES AND ENRICHMENT

2024-2025

PRESCHOOL HANDBOOK

UPDATED 7/2024

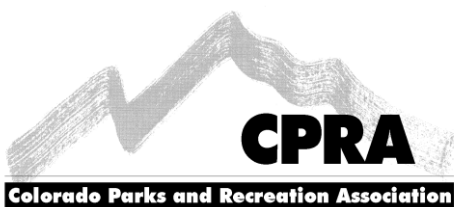


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TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

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Recreation Supervisor-Youth Activities

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Lana Fauver

BUILDING BLOCKS CLASSROOM 303-335-4933

STEPPING STONES CLASSROOM 303-335-4930

WELCOME TO PRESCHOOL!



Philosophy of the Building Blocks/Stepping Stones

The Building Blocks/Stepping Stones Preschool Program are designed to meet the academic, social and physical needs of children by providing a stimulating, safe and nurturing early learning environment. Learning is fostered through play at this young age. Small classes promote social, emotional, fine & gross motor skills, cognitive and language development. The children are given the opportunity to explore their environment and in the process, discover how it works. The positive atmosphere builds self-esteem, creativity, risk taking and problem solving abilities and encourages the development of new ideas and learning.

Eligibility for Participation 2024-2025 School Year

Building Blocks participants (ages 3-4 years) must have reached his/her third birthday by 10/1/2024. Stepping stones participants (ages 4-5) must have reached his/her fourth birthday by 10/1/2024.

Children with Special Needs

The City of Louisville does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. The City of Louisville is dedicated to supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act. Under § 35.135 Personal devices and services

http://www.ada.gov//regs2010/titleII_2010/titleII_2010_regulations.htm#a35135

a public entity is not required to provide to individuals with disabilities personal devices, such as wheelchairs; individually prescribed devices, such as prescription eyeglasses or hearing aids; readers for personal use or study; or services of a personal nature including assistance in eating, toileting, or dressing. If your child is unable to perform activities of personal care, you may provide, at your own cost, a personal care assistant.

To determine if full inclusion would be a good fit for your child, please consider the following:

- Semi-structured and unstructured activities are offered and require children to demonstrate independent leisure skills and self-initiation of activities.
- The environment can be highly stimulating and is conducive to individuals who can maintain control with minimal redirection, intervention, prompting or cueing, and maintain appropriate self-control. The environment can be loud throughout the day.
- Activities are presented in a group setting. There are multiple transitions through the day.
- The City of Louisville **does not** employ a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

If your child may require special accommodations for participation, please call Mandy Perera at 303.335.4902 in advance of enrollment. We invite you to talk about your needs and we can tell you more about our preschool setting to see if it would be a good fit for your child.

Hours of Operation and Holidays Observed

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Building Blocks Morning Class: 8:30am - 11:30 am

Building Blocks Afternoon Class: 12pm-3pm

Stepping Stones: 8:15am-1:15pm

Tuesday & Thursday

Optional Preschool Enrichment: 8:15am-12:00pm

Once the program begins in late August, we follow the BVSD Calendar for all holidays, vacations, in-services and professional days. The program ends late May. A calendar can be found on the preschool webpage.

Inclement Weather Procedures

If BVSD cancels school for bad weather, Building Blocks/Stepping Stones will be cancelled. Please notify us if you're going to be late picking up your child due to the weather conditions. In cases of extreme heat when activities are scheduled outdoors, the activity time shall be shortened. The children will then be moved indoors. In cases of rain, lightening, or a tornado warning, the activity will be moved indoors.

Admission

Once enrolled in the Building Blocks, Stepping Stones or Enrichment, your child's enrollment carries over each month throughout the school year (Aug-May). Class curriculum will remain age appropriate. There is no need to switch classes when your child has a birthday.

Tuition Pay families must complete an annual payment agreement. Families may select to have the monthly tuition deducted automatically from a bank account or they may select to pay by semester (fall and spring) by cash, check or charge. Tuition is due the first of the month.

Universal Preschool families will enroll through <https://cdec.colorado.gov/universal-preschool> and will receive 15 hours of free preschool weekly.

Registration of Children/Custody Situations

In the event of shared custody arrangements, it is assumed that both parents are in agreement with the child(ren) attending the program. The City of Louisville will not interpret or mediate any conflicts regarding custody or parenting time disputes. If there are any custodial arrangements that may affect the child during the participation of the program, it is the enrolling parent's responsibility to make the staff fully aware of all such arrangements.

Fee Schedule

Please consult the Payment Agreement or a current Recreation & Senior Center Catalog for current fee structures.

Immunizations

Enrolled students must have a current immunization record on file in ePACT or complete an exemption form. Children who are not immunized or who are under-immunized are allowed to attend the program. Documents must be uploaded to ePACT.

Identifying Where Children Are at All Times

All children are under direct supervision at all times. The teachers keep a check-in document of children in attendance and frequently take head counts. When visiting areas outside the classroom, a teacher is always at the front and end of the line. Building Blocks additionally uses a walking rope.

Newsletters are e-mailed to families at the beginning of each month giving an overview. Changes are given out as they occur.

Conduct in the Classroom/Guidance

Positive, strong relationships are critically important to all aspects of healthy development for young children. Positive relationships with teachers helps create a warm and nurturing classroom environment in which children grown and learn. Positive relationships between teachers and families helps create a sense of school community and sets the stage for open communication. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support your child in their school experience.

Social emotional skills will be infused into the curriculum each day. Children will have opportunities to learn about feelings and express themselves throughout the day.

In order to make Building Blocks/Stepping Stones a positive experience for all children, we ask that three basic principles be observed:

- Keep yourself safe
- Keep others safe
- Keep the materials and equipment safe

Teachers use positive methods of guidance that encourage independence and a sense of responsibility to include social-emotional skills, self-regulation, problem solving and empathy for others. Redirection is a way to guide the child from inappropriate activity to a more appropriate activity. Teachers communicate with and provide guidance to the children when solving problems in the classroom. This communication is brief and clear. Communication can include giving alternative choices to the child or assisting the child with problem solving. Behavior issues are handled on an individual basis as they arise.

When a child is repeatedly having trouble observing classroom guidelines, behavior support steps may include any or all of the following steps in a supportive manner with teacher involvement and support:

Child takes a break from the group with the teacher. Separation is never punitive, but used as a chance for the child to calm himself.

Discuss with the child the inappropriate behavior before returning to the group.

Parents will be notified of any significant problems during the class.

Staff will document serious behavior problems.

For children who may need more support, staff will discuss an appropriate team based positive behavior plan of action appropriate for that individual child to include both staff and parents/guardians. Outside specialists may be contacted for support and guidance.

Referrals will be made if teachers feel the child may benefit from area services such as mental health, Child Find or other local agencies/specialists.

Physical punishment is never used. Guidance is not associated with rest, toilet training or eating.

It is the parent's responsibility to note on the child's paperwork any behavior, mental, or physical issues, which may affect his/her day-to-day activities in class.

If a child's behavior continues to be a concern and/or the safety of others is at risk, steps will be taken to support the child and family including consulting with outside resources, meetings with staff and classroom modifications if appropriate. Expulsion is always avoided with possible.

Children Who Become Ill/Accidents/Emergency

Child not feeling well? We encourage you to keep them home where you can monitor their symptoms and they may rest. You may call your teachers during class time to let them know.
Building Blocks 303-335-4933 | Stepping Stones 303-335-4930
Children must be symptom-free, **without medication**, for 24 hours before returning to class.

If a child exhibits symptoms of being ill, they will be separated from the other children and will be offered a blanket and mat to lie on and a parent will be notified. If a child is injured, first aid will be administered and if deemed necessary, 911 will be called. The parent/guardian will be called and notified of the injury and an incident form will be filled completed. Staff will let the parent/guardian know if their child needs to be picked up or was transported by emergency vehicle to the hospital. Minor scrapes and bumps will be reported to the parent/guardian when they arrive to pick up their child. In any event in which the parent/guardian cannot be reached the emergency contact will be notified.

Parents must report to their teachers or Recreation Supervisor, Mandy Perera, any exposure to communicable illnesses outside the center. If prescribed by the child's physician, the center's nurse consultant or the local health department, the child may be excluded from the center for the period of time. Families will be notified that there was a confirmed case of a communicable illness.

Lost Children/Natural Disasters

All Building Blocks/Stepping Stones Staff members are trained in the established safety procedures. Drills are held to familiarize staff and children on procedures to follow in the event of an emergency such as fire, tornado, or severe weather. The following steps will take place:

- A. The Recreation Supervisor will be notified.
- B. Local authorities will be notified.
- C. Emergency transportation will be provided.
- D. Children's parents or guardians will be notified promptly.

Fire Drill- conducted monthly

Tornado Drill- conducted monthly March-October

Lockdown Drill- conducted once per semester

Teachers will explain to students that they are conducting a safety drill in order to know how to be safe.

When the Building Blocks/Stepping Stones Staff hear the tornado siren or are alerted by the Recreation Supervisor that there is a tornado warning, children will be moved to the designated tornado safe spot. Preschool Staff will take attendance once they are safely in the designated area.

Once the Recreation Center receives an all-clear signal from a Supervisor or the Police Department, children will return to the classroom.

In the event of a facility evacuation, children and teachers will go to the tennis courts to the west of the facility. If the campus must be evacuated, children and teachers will go to the Louisville Police Department.

If there is a threat outside the facility, children and teachers will return inside/remain inside with the doors locked and shades drawn until released by a supervisor of Louisville Police Department. If a threat is identified inside the facility, children and teachers will move to the identified secure shelter in place location until given an all clear by a Supervisor or the Police Department.

If a student with a disability enrolls in the program, a specific plan will be created between the parent/guardian, teachers and Recreation Supervisor pertaining to their accessibility and functional needs in an evacuation situation.

Transportation of Children

Due to the short class time of the part day preschool, off-site field trips are not offered, and transportation is not provided by Staff. Staff is not permitted to transport children in their private vehicles.

Field Trips/TV & Video

Any field trips will be in town and the children will either walk or meet at the designated sites.

Videos are seldom used, however, if teachers feel a particular video may enhance the learning process, teachers will preview the materials and ensure the relevance to the current lesson plan.

Safety When Riding in a Vehicle/Vehicle Supervision

Not applicable as children will not be transported.



Arrival/Release of Children

It is required that all children be accompanied to and picked up from the classroom by an authorized person. Children may not sign themselves in or out of Building Blocks/Stepping Stones. Sign-In/Sign-Out will provide a clear record of attendance, should it be needed. Children will be released only to those on the authorized pick up list. Persons unknown to Building Blocks/Stepping Stones Staff may be asked to show ID. Authorized persons must be at least 16 years old. No Building Blocks/Stepping Stones Staff member may be listed as an authorized person. To authorize an alternate person to pick up your child, you may add them to the list or provide written consent that includes the person's name, the specific date(s), and your signature. Parents/caregivers will be notified if children need to be picked up, and where, in an emergency. Verbal consent will be accepted only in an emergency. Teachers will inspect the room and check out sheets at the end of each class to verify all children have been picked up.

Late Pick-Up/Failure to Pick-Up

Please contact your child's classroom if you are going to be late. A late fee of \$1 for every minute will be charged for any pick up that occurs after the scheduled pick up time. This must be paid before the child can return to class. Please note, a late fee will be collected even with advance

notice. After 15 minutes, the child is placed in the care of the Recreation Center staff. After 45 minutes, the child will be placed in the custody of the local authorities. If a pattern of late pick-ups occurs, a discussion will be had between parents and the recreation supervisor to see if the program hours are a fit for the family.

Late Arrivals

If a child arrives late to class, they are expected to join their respective class.

Reporting an Absence

Please let your teachers know if your child will be absent for any planned missed days. For last-minute absences, please call the classrooms directly, during class hours.

BUILDING BLOCKS CLASSROOM 303-335-4933
STEPPING STONES CLASSROOM 303-335-4930

Storing and Administering Children's Medication

Please notify the Recreation Supervisor if during class your child will need any type of medication, prescription or over-the-counter, or if they require special medical attention due to allergies. Parents need to meet with the Program Supervisor and Staff in advance to set up a Health Care Plan specific to your child. If the proper paperwork has not been completed, parents will be notified and asked to return to our premises to administer medication. Parents should check with their health care provider to see if a dosage schedule can be arranged that does not involve the hours the child is in class.

In the event that a medication does need to be administered during class time by staff, we must have on file before administering the medication 1) written authorization from the health care provider 2) parent written authorization 3) and medication in the original labeled container- a pharmacy label is required for all prescription medications. Please use the correct form provide under "Other Forms/Materials" on our website. Please return all needed materials to Mandy Perera **before** your child begins the program.

Only the those trained in Medication Administration are authorized to administer medication, and only if there is a signed parent/guardian and physician waiver on file as well as the medication in the original labeled container. Confidentiality of the child will be maintained at all times. All medications will be kept in a locked cabinet away from children except for emergency medications such as epi pens. All procedures for storing and administering children's medicines and delegation of medication administration are in compliance with Section 12-38-132, C.R.S., of the "Nurse Practice Act."

Handling of Children's Belongings

All children's belongings should be labeled with their name and stored in their cubbie. Although the Building Blocks/Stepping Stones Staff make an effort to monitor children's belongings, we cannot guarantee the security of your child's belongings. Building Blocks/Stepping Stones provides activities and equipment for children. Children should not bring expensive or valuable items to the program. The City of Louisville is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

Label all items brought from home with your child's name.

Sunscreen

Please apply sunscreen to your child daily before attending Building Blocks/Stepping Stones and note on the classroom Check-In Sheet. Please initial the clause on the Admission Form to give consent to Staff to help your child re-apply sunscreen if needed. Full sun-protection clothing can be used in place of sunscreen to include a wide-brim hat, long sleeves and long pants.

Child Helmet Use

Children are required to wear a helmet while participating in the riding of rollerblades, bicycles, scooters, or skateboards if it is a Building Blocks/Stepping Stones activity. Helmets are provided for use with program equipment.



Snacks

A small snack (ex: fruit, non-nut bar, crackers) may be sent with your child each day in their school tote bag. Please do not send items that must be kept cool like dairy products.

Lunch

Students enrolled in Stepping Stones and Enrichment should also bring a lunch.

Diapering and Toilet Training

Please have your child use the restroom before leaving home and again right before class. If your child is not potty trained, please speak with Mandy Perera, or the teachers, prior to the first class. If your child is not potty trained, you must remain in the facility or able to return to the facility within five minutes to handle changes. Teachers will use verbal guidance with children in the bathroom, but at no time will physically assist in toileting or change diapers. In the event of an accident during class time, the child will be given their change of clothes and if necessary, the parent will be called.



Dressing for Play & Weather

Children should wear "play clothes" to school. Closed-toe shoes (sneakers) are ideal for outdoor play. We go outdoors almost every day, even during cold weather, so please dress children appropriately according to weather. Arts and crafts may be messy so that the children can feel free to express themselves. Also consider the needs of your child for the use of the restroom. Clothing which children cannot handle themselves, such as; one-piece jump suits and complicated belts or buckles are not recommended. If your child wears snow boots to class, please bring a change of shoes for in the classroom.

Visitors/Volunteer Policy

Parents may visit the classroom at any time. All visitors, are required to check in with Building Blocks/Stepping Stones Staff and sign in on the Visitor's Log located at in the supervisor's office. Persons unknown to staff will be required to show a State issued photo ID for identification. All

volunteers must complete a City of Louisville Volunteer Application and undergo a background check. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Recreation Supervisor.

Communication with Parents

We believe in an open door policy and want our parents to feel involved in their child's learning. Parent conferences may be scheduled at any time.

Parent/Teacher conferences are historically scheduled in February.

Please notify staff of events that may affect your child's day at school, such as: home issues, birth of a new sibling, death or illness of someone important or a pet, upcoming events/trips/visitors. This helps staff to understand and handle behaviors that may stem from events that trouble or excite children.



Teachers keep parents informed of classroom happenings in a variety of ways, to include: Program Newsletter, Monthly Calendar, brief conversations before and after class, written notes sent home or telephone conversations, messages posted in the Sign-in/out area, E-mail and the dry erase board.

Filing a Complaint

We want to hear from you if you have questions or concerns about your Building Blocks or Stepping Stones class. We will make every effort to resolve any issues or concerns you have about the program. Should you have a concern, or idea for improving the program, please speak with your child's Teachers, the Program Director or the Recreation Supervisor.

If you have a complaint regarding suspected licensing violations at this or any other licensed child care center, you have the right to report your concerns to the Colorado Office of Child Care Services at 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO or call (303) 866-5958.

If you suspect child abuse or neglect, you should seek assistance from the County Department of Human Services. The telephone number for the number for Boulder County is 303-413-7400.



Reporting of Child Abuse

As a child care facility, each staff member is required to read and sign a statement clearly defining child abuse and neglect pursuant to state law and outlining the staff member's personal responsibility to report all incidents of suspected child abuse or neglect according to state law.

Should you suspect child abuse at our facility, a report of suspected child abuse must be made to the County Department of Social Services, Police Department, or other law enforcement agency in the community or County in which the facility is located.

Should you suspect child abuse that did not occur at our facility, a report of suspected child abuse must be made to the County Department of Social Services in the County in which the child resides or the local law enforcement agency in the County in which the incident is believed to have occurred. The telephone for Boulder County is 303-413-7000.

Withdrawing From the Program

A parent or guardian may withdraw his/her child from the Building Blocks/Stepping Stones at any time. However refunds will be given based on the following refund policy.

Refund Policy

- The Enrollment Fee and Deposit collected upon registration for the program is non-refundable and will not be credited.
- All cancellations must be made in writing on a Louisville Recreation Center Cancellation Form and turned into the Recreation Supervisor before the 1st of the proceeding month's tuition (ex: if your child will no longer be attending the program as of December 1st, parents must complete a cancellation form before November 1st) in order to not be charged for the upcoming month's tuition.
- Refunds will be issued in the form of a check or credit card (depending on method of payment) or a household credit balance. Refund checks may take 2-4 weeks to process and will be mailed to you at your address listed in the registration system, Rectrac.

Expulsion and Appeals

The removal of a child from the program will always be a last resort after following the appropriate steps for the specific situation.

Before a child is removed, the Recreation Supervisor will discuss the current situation and everything that has occurred to date with the teachers, parents/guardians, and Superintendent of Recreation. The Recreation Supervisor will provide a letter stating what actions have been taken and why. This letter will also indicate that a copy has been sent to the Superintendent of Recreation. The program will work with the parent to identify a plan to transition the child to a more suitable setting.

An Appeal Process is available if the parent(s)/guardian(s) by contacting the Recreation Supervisor to arrange a hearing before the Appeals Board (Recreation Superintendent, Recreation Supervisor, and Building Blocks/Stepping Stones Director). The family would then plead their case; bring to the Board's attention any extenuating circumstances or reason that an exception should be made and their child be reinstated to the program. The Board has the authority to make exceptions and would give the parent/guardian their decision within 24 hours of their appeal hearing.