



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the ratio of children to teachers at Bent Tree?**

In order to give your child the attention they need and deserve Bent Tree maintains child to teacher ratios of 2 under the state requirement.

### **What kind of school are we?**

#### **Program Overview:**

We are a private preschool with center-based learning environments in the classrooms to promote hands-on learning. In addition to the early learning program, we offer extended care before and after our class times. The academic year runs mid-August through end of May, and the Summer Camp Program runs June, July and early August. We open at 7:00 a.m. and close 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Summer Camp Program is recreational and fun with lots of sensory, beat-the-heat type of activities. To facilitate the learning program, additionally we offer the following:

- Level II – Spanish, Computer and Music & Movement enrichment.
- Level III, Pre-K and Kinder – Saxon Math program, Open Court Language and Reading Program, Manners and Social Etiquette classes, Music and Movement enrichment and a Science Curriculum

### **How are we different from Montessori?**

Our program offers a center based learning environment that provides choices for children. The daily curriculum is more structured and tends to be more teacher-directed than what you may find in a Montessori classroom.

- Other Features:
- Front Door Security System
- Classroom Observation Windows
- School Entrance Evaluation and Classroom Observation visit prior to enrollment
- Degreed Teachers
- Low Teacher/Child Ratios and Small Group sizes
- Curriculum Enrichment as listed above

### **Do we enroll children on a part-time basis?**

The majority of our children attend on a full time basis, but we do offer an after school program for school-aged children, and a drop-in program. Our biggest usage of our drop-in program is in the summer.

### **What are our teacher qualifications?**

All of the school's carefully chosen teachers have a 4 year degree, a 2 year Associates Degree, or CDA credential in Early Childhood Education or a related field and have had prior experience working with children.



### **What are our ratios?**

Our children are grouped in class levels according to their age. State of Texas School Entrance Age = 5 years by September 1st.

- The school's teacher/child ratios are as follows:
- The Level I (1 1/2 year olds) offers a 1:6 teacher/child ratio. The state of Texas allows the child to begin on the 1st day of their 18th month.
- The Level II (2 Years old by Sept.1) group is 1:8 teacher/child ratio
- The Level III (3 Years old by Sept.1) group is 1:12 teacher/child ratio
- The Pre K (4 Years old by Sept.1) group is 1:15 or 2:22 teacher/child ratio
- The Kindergarten (5 Years by Sept.1) is 1:15 teacher/child ratio.
- The After Schoolers (1st - 6th grade) group has a maximum of 23 children per class.
- During our extended program hours, based on teacher's schedule, children may be merged to other similar level classrooms.

### **Tuition?**

Payments are made weekly or monthly determined by the parent upon enrollment. Weekly tuition includes the full 11.5-hour day including academic and extended program.

### **Are we accredited?**

The school does not have NAEYC accreditation but does follow and exceed all of the recommended ratios and guidelines for quality.

### **What is the difference in the levels, what can we expect?**

Children are placed in peer groups according to their level of development and maturation by following the Sept. 1 Texas guidelines for the start for school.

### **Napping?**

In accordance with the State of Texas Guidelines, all the children in the Level I through Pre-K classes nap from 12:30pm – 2:30pm daily. The Kindergarten and After Schooler classes do not nap. Children must stay on their cots during the nap time but can look at books quietly during the second hour of nap if they are not asleep. Parents can communicate with their homeroom teacher to address when a child is getting too much sleep or not enough sleep.

### **Food for Children & Special diet needs or "My child won't eat macaroni"?**

We prepare our food on the school location with a full time cook and assistant. The school's daily meals and snacks are created with choices in mind. All lunch entrees offer at least 4 items to allow for the fussy eaters and the menu is developed and reviewed yearly by a registered dietician. We serve lunch family style and 2 snacks per day in the classrooms. We encourage the children to try all foods, but we do not use food as reward or punishment. We plan for lots of fresh vegetables and fruits daily. If your child has a specific medical condition that requires a special diet, arrangements can be made for you to provide his/her meals. Special diet needs are posted in every classroom.



### **Bringing sack lunches/lunch boxes?**

Lunch boxes are not allowed unless a special diet is indicated or the entire class is involved in a special activity that has been pre-planned by the teacher.

### **Religious affiliation?**

Our school is non-denominational and does not include religious instruction as a part of our curriculum.

### **Medication?**

We cannot administer any non-prescription medication without a medication form that has been signed by both parent and the physician. All medications must be checked in at the front desk upon arrival. We ask that if at all possible, medication doses be timed so that the school is responsible for administering only 1 dose/daily. We do not administer breathing treatments, but parents or a designated adult can come to the school to administer.

### **When do we send a sick child home?**

Children are sent home if they have a fever of 100.4 or over, if they have vomited, if they have had continual episodes of diarrhea, or if they are thought to have a contagious illness.

### **My child is getting over a cold; can they stay in today?**

Our school policy states that if a child is well enough to attend our program, then they must be able to participate in all scheduled activities including outdoor play. A child is never forced to engage in strenuous play if they do not choose. Children may remain inside only upon written instruction from his/her physician.

### **Program explanation, year round program?**

Our school offers a year round curriculum that includes an academic program from mid August through May and a Summer Camp from June through early August.

### **What am I paying for; time, meals, etc?**

Our fees are based on a full time weekly enrollment that includes all meals, extended care, and educational program between the hours of 7:00a.m. and 6:30p.m. daily.

### **What kind of discipline do you use?**

When children are busy and engaged in developmentally appropriate activities there is a low incidence of non-compliance of school rules. Because children are learning we are constantly talking to children and guiding their day. Positive praise and redirection are continuous methods of a good guidance program for small children. Teachers want all children to be safe throughout the day. Occasionally, when a child is hurtful to himself or hurtful to others by actions or words, a "time out" or "thinking time" is needed, which is a time away from the group located somewhere in the classroom. This allows the child to regroup and recollect his/her composure. After a few minutes he/she is invited back to rejoin the group.