



Parent Guide

An overview of the
2009-2010 Fireflies™ Curriculum Year

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Welcome To FunShine Express™!

Your child's teacher/child care provider will be offering a wide range of preschool activities this year through our curriculum program. We are looking forward to another exciting year. Before we begin, let us introduce ourselves and the program.

Fireflies™ is a professionally designed monthly preschool curriculum created by FunShine Express™ for children ages 2-5 years. Each kit includes creative art materials for each child, alphabet and language activities, music and movement, hands-on math and science, social activities and games. We believe children learn best through interacting with their environment and we strive to present activities with that in mind.

Each month, your child will participate in integrated activities related to three educational themes. He or she will also be introduced to three alphabet letters, one color, two to three numbers, and one shape. Watch for related activities to begin arriving home!

You will receive a copy of "The Parent Express" Newsletter each month, along with Weekly Family Notes. These resources include a description of each theme's goals, several of the songs and rhymes your child is learning, a Book List, and more. You may wish to gather some of the suggested book titles to share with your child at home.



Fireflies™ Program Goals:

- The curriculum will be based on current research and sound educational theories of early childhood learning and development.
- We will provide a wide range of hands-on, interactive materials allowing children to experiment and explore their surroundings.
- The activity and project suggestions provided in our kits will stimulate creativity and build a positive self-image in each child.
- The program will encourage involvement of family members in each child's learning.

What Is Developmentally Appropriate Practice?

In simple terms, Developmentally Appropriate Practice means that activities and programs take into account what each child is ready for. Developmentally appropriate for ages 2 - 5 means that children should be offered a wide variety of hands-on opportunities to explore the world around them.

What Are The Benefits Of Being Developmentally Appropriate?

Practices that take into account the developmental readiness of each child can boost self confidence and independent thinking. Children are also provided opportunities for individual expression, and are able to practice decision-making. This type of environment promotes skills and discipline, inspires creativity, encourages flexibility, and provides for emotional release.

Is Fireflies™ Developmentally Appropriate?

The Fireflies™ curriculum is designed to be open-ended and flexible. We provide ideas that caregivers can implement to insure appropriateness. To a great extent, each teacher determines how the program is used in their particular setting.

As parents, you can support developmental appropriateness by following the lead of your child's teacher. Be supportive and involved in their efforts! Also, remember that children can accomplish many things without you seeing a specific project each day.

Give Us A Call!

Again, welcome to another curriculum year. Please visit our web site for descriptions of upcoming themes or to shop for educational resources and gifts. Call us with your questions at 1.800.340.8103. Have a great year!