HHBH Community Association Playschool

Playschool Phone
403-210-5126

Welcome Class of 2018-19

Play is the highest form of research.

Welcome to the HHBH Community Association Playschool! It's hard to believe that in a few short weeks we will be welcoming new and returning children into the classroom. We are looking forward to a great year and getting to know all of our students and their families!

Ms. Marie

Teachers@playschool.hh-bh.ca

I grew up on a farm in Ireland and graduated from University College Dublin with an Honours Degree in Geophysics. I worked as a geophysicist for a few years before my husband, Brad and I had our three kids. Our son is now 17 and our twin girls are 15. When I was home with our children, I spent a lot of time in the classroom as a parent volunteer and co-chair! I love to do crafts and play board games with my family when we are not busy running between activities. Going for a bike ride, hike, or curling up with a good book are some of my favourite ways to unwind.

I am very excited to be returning to my ninth year at HHBH Playschool. I am thrilled to work and play with your kids in this fun, caring and nurturing environment. Through hands-on learning and observation, it is so lovely to witness each child's growth into confident capable learners. I can't wait to see you all in September.

Ms. Liz

Teachers@playschool.hh-bh.ca

Hi! My name is Elizabeth Dennis, but I have shortened it to Ms. Liz. ☺ I am a mother to 2 incredible children who are 14 and 10 years old. They are going into grade 9 and grade 6.

I have been working with children in various settings for over 17 years and have taught Preschool for the past 6 years. I am very excited to be joining your children in the HHBH preschool classroom and can't wait to meet all the new and returning families in September.

Lyndsey Bristow, Co-Chair

Chair@playschool.hh-bh.ca

We are excited to be returning to our third year at the HHBH CA Playschool. Our youngest, Zachary will be joining the Tuesday/Thursday morning class in November. Juliana, who has enjoyed being part of the Playschool for the past two years, will be on to new adventures in kindergarten, and our oldest daughter Shayla is starting grade two. This will be my third year as chair at the Playschool. When I am not roaming the halls at the school, I work as an occupational therapist and a yoga teacher.

Kathryn Hluchy, Co-Chair

Chair@playschool.hh-bh.ca

I am lucky to be going into year 5 of being a parent at HHBHCA Playschool. My daughter Marissa is 3 (she's grown a lot since this photo, but is still just as silly!) and after sneaking into class for the final few months of the last school year, she can't wait to join again in September! We have also had her older sister, Andrea, and her older brother, Elias, spend 2 years each in the playschool and they loved it. I look forward to meeting all the new kiddies this year and volunteering with a great set of parents!

Important Playschool Information

- **Parent Handbook**

Please take the time to review the Parent Handbook so you are familiar with Playschool's operations, routines, policies and procedures.

- **Police Clearance**

Our playschool relies on parent helpers to maintain the required adult/child ratios for licensing. Police Clearance is MANDATORY for all parent helpers. **Police clearance of at least one parent or adult who will be completing parent helper shifts at the Playschool must be received prior to the child commencing Playschool.** If you need to complete a police clearance, please do so at https://policeinformationcheck.calgarypolice.ca/ and "share" the results with HHBH Community Association. Please contact Sarah Lambe, Privacy Officer/Class Liaison at class.liaison@playschool.hh-bh.ca if you have questions or have a valid police clearance from elsewhere. Please note that it can take several weeks for a police clearance to be processed.

- **Parent Volunteer Commitment**

Our school depends on the involvement and participation of parents. Each family is expected to complete Special Helper Days in the classroom, as well as sign up for a job in one of the four Non-Executive Parent Committees: Teacher Support Committee, Social Events Committee, Classroom Enrichment Committee, and Cleaning Committee. Please familiarize yourself with the parent volunteer expectations before the start of school (in the Parent Handbook).

- **Sign Up Genius**

The Playschool will be utilizing Sign Up Genius to allow parents to sign up online for all required volunteer commitments. More information regarding volunteer requirements and how to use Sign Up Genius will be sent to parents on **August 21st.**

- **First Day Of Class**

For your child's first day:

- Please ensure you know which day your child should arrive (see Staggered Entry below)
- You will receive a registration form and waiver one week prior to school. **You will need to print off the registration form/waiver, ensure all information is correct, and bring with you on the first day.**
- Please plan to stay for at least the first 10-15 minutes for paperwork/introductions

- **Staggered Entry**

Staggered entry will occur the first week of classes.

- Children enrolled in the morning class will visit for one, full 2 ½ hour class between September 10th-13th
- There will be no staggered entry for the afternoon class: regular attendance begins September 11th
- September 14th will be the start of regular attendance for children in the morning classes
- Your child's assigned staggered entry day will be sent by email in late August, 2018.

- **Speech and Fine Motor Screening**

The Playschool is partnered with IM4Kids, a community based, early intervention program that provides developmental screening and on-site therapy support. The IM4Kids Team will be available to HHBH Playschool children to complete developmental screens on September 21, 2018. If you choose to participate, an occupational therapist and speech language pathologist will meet with you and your child and present your child with a set of age-appropriate activities. The therapists will observe your child's approach and skill level and review with you their clinical impressions. If warranted, further assessment may be recommended. If you believe your child would benefit from a developmental screen, please be sure to pick up an IM4Kids information package and sign up for an assessment time at the Playschool on the first week of classes.

Important Classroom Logistics

Playschool Access

In compliance with CBE policy, all doors at Briar Hill School are locked at 8:40am and remain locked throughout the day. There is a buzzer at the Playschool entrance that parents can use to access the building.

Releasing Children

- The preschool door will be opened at 11:30am/3:30pm. Please be respectful of our teachers and the Parent Helpers and ensure you are on time.
- 2-3 children will be called forward to meet up with their authorized parent/guardian in the hallway
- To ensure safety/security, do not take your child or "wave" your child out
- Your patience is appreciated as we become familiar with the adults authorized to pick up your child.

Snack Expectations

- The Parent Helper will provide a healthy snack from two different food groups, for all children in the class
- Briar Hill School has a **No Nuts/No Peanuts** policy and the playground is a "Food Free" zone
- Every day, children need to bring a clean water-filled water bottle clearly labeled with their name
- Please review the Parent Handbook to familiarize yourself with the snack expectations.

Shoes/Clothing

- Children need to wear supportive shoes that allow them to move safely in the classroom and the gym.
- Children need to have a suitable sweater/coat each day in case of outdoor play or fire drill/evacuation
- Shoes can be left in your child's cubby. The Playschool is not responsible for lost/stolen items
- Please keep an extra set of clothing/underwear in your child's backpack in case of accidents, spills…etc.

Helper Days

On your Parent Helper day, you **must arrive 15 minutes** before the program start time, for a briefing on the day. Please respect the teachers, children and other parents and arrive on time for this preparation. Parent Helper role and expectations are available to review online on our website at https://hhbhcaplayschool.com.

Show & Tell

- The child of the Parent Helper is the Special Helper Child that day and can bring **ONE** show & tell item.
- Suggested items are: a favorite book, science item, toy or souvenir. Violence related toys are not allowed.
- 10-15 minutes each class is allocated for show & tell; to facilitate development of listening and speaking skills, for both the special helper child and their classmates.

Birthday Information

- On a child's birthday, s/he will get to wear a birthday sticker and the class will sing Happy Birthday
- Often parents will try to plan to be the Special Helper on or close to their child's birthday
- **Cupcakes are not to brought to class** as the snack on your child's birthday. Licensing requires that healthy snacks from two different food groups are provided.

Start of School Transition

- Parents may stay with their child on the first day (or few days) to ensure the child is comfortable.
- Discuss expectations: your child needs to know that s/he will need to remain at the school without you.
- Our teachers are experienced and well-prepared to help your child with separation anxiety. They will let you know if the separation is too difficult for your child and together we can come up with a plan.
- ALWAYS say good bye to your child BUT be careful not to drag out your departure as this can make the transition more challenging.
- If it helps with the transition, your child may bring a special/security item (like a blanket or a stuffy) until s/he is more comfortable at school. The teachers need to be aware of the item to reduce the chance of it being lost or broken. Once your child is comfortable, all special/security items need to be kept at home.
- If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact Ms. Liz and Ms. Marie by email or by phone at the Playschool after September 6th.