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*Welcome to the world of a four- year- old at Buttercup Hill.  
Share and discover the magic of childhood.  
Stimulate and develop a positive self- image.  
Grow through developmentally rich four- year- old experiences.*

**Class Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:15 – 11:30 am                      Drop Off 8:05 – 8:15 am

**Our Staff:** Sarah Reichle (owner, director, teacher), Tiffany Perez, Heather Gunter, Bryn Alexander and Allie Saucy (music)

The four- year- old curriculum focuses on discovery of self through play activities, language, creative art, music, science, math, and physical exploration. Each day, children are exposed to different activities that enhance their learning experience.

<b>Monday:</b>	Heather:	Art – exploration, cutting, sequencing, color mixing
	Beckie:	Open - use of activity centers – puzzles, manipulatives, building, imaginative play
	Allie:	Music
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Heather:	Math – use of endless manipulatives
	Tiffany:	Open - use of activity centers – puzzles, manipulatives, building, and imaginative play
	Bryn:	Language Arts – letter of the week
<b>Friday:</b>	Sarah:	Physical Education – focus on large motor skills through games, dance, and fun
	Allie:	Open- (use of activity centers – puzzles, manipulatives, building, and imaginative play
	Heather / Bryn:	Science, Cooking, and Gardening – hands on experiences

Our group of four -year- old children is divided into three individual classes: Bumblebees, Fireflies and Ladybugs. Your child will remain in one of these groups for the entire school year.

Following is the class rotation schedule:

<b>Fireflies</b>	Gym Room	8:15 am
<b>Ladybugs</b>	Kitchen	8:15 am
<b>Bumblebees</b>	Living Room	8:15 am

The morning rotation schedule is as follows:

8:15 – 10:20 am	Classes rotate to three different activities
10:20 – 10:50 am	Recess
10:50 – 11:10 am	Snack
11:10 – 11:30 am	Ending story time and dismissal

Children are ready to have successful learning experiences in school when there is a positive interaction of the child’s developmental characteristics, school practices and family.

The following developmental domains support your four- year- old's learning at Buttercup Hill:

- Physical development, health, and safety
- Personal and social development
- Communication, language development and literacy
- Cognitive development: symbolic play, mathematics, science, social studies
- Creative development: art, music, creative movement/drama, aesthetic appreciation

Each day Buttercup purposefully addresses one or more of these domains into topics of study meaningful to your child's growth and development. This balanced program considers each child's unique being and seeks to develop your "whole child."

### **Whole Language / Reading Readiness**

- Joyful Learning
- R is Rainbow Alphabet Program
- Nellie Edge Big Books
- Alpha – Bakery
- A is for Animals
- Under the Sea from A to Z
- A wealth of books from a very rich and updated library
- Big books for fun, learning and literature
- Writing, spelling, and phonemic awareness
- Vocabulary building and comprehension

### **Open**

Open is the term used for active learning through use of activity centers in the living room and dining room areas. Centers include blocks, trucks, puzzles, games, math manipulatives, kitchen, doll house, animals, magnets, building, ramps, shapes, colors and so much more. Open ended imaginative play through puppets and other dramatic play equipment.

### **Music Education**

In music class children will explore the most important instrument - their bodies! - through rhythm, movement, and song. They will have fun and be silly while building critical neural pathways only music can create, laying a foundation that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Experiences in music and movement encourage:

- Basic movement coordination
- Development of body and space awareness as well as inhibitory control.
- Attending ability by providing learning opportunities that strengthen aural comprehension and visual perception skills.
- Language development through vocal play
- Development of a positive self- concept

### **Physical Education**

Buttercup Hill's physical education program will provide key experiences in movement for the young child through the following:

- Basic movement coordination
- Body and space awareness
- Attending ability
- Awareness of basic time (learns to move to the beat)
- Develop positive self-concept

These key experiences will be obtained through the following curriculum themes:

- Games with my friends
- Music, movement, and rhythms
- Group games
- Movement with objects
- Various sports

### **Science, Cooking, and Gardening**

The above activities provide children with the opportunity to find their own routes of discovery.

- Nature activities for young children in the garden, and the park
- Challenge children to pause and wonder, reflect, and speculate.
- Question conditions and events.
- Seek and search for explanations.
- Doubt and look for irregularities or deviations.
- To care for the environment all around us.
- To beautify our historical sight and be aware of its history.
- To treasure our environment keeping it safe and healthy.

### **Mathematics**

Patterns of mathematics through concrete materials. At all times, children must be encouraged to “discover” on their own, strategies to find out “why” a certain process is used or works. Arithmetic needs to be taught in context that makes sense to the child. Help children discover the correct operation to deal with the information they have. Children who have a good grasp of one mathematical concept can then progress to more advanced concepts.

### **Second Step Program I**

Children will explore their feelings and the emotions and feelings of others through role play, puppetry, and example. Appropriate actions and reactions to a variety of social situations will be taught.

***“Schools, which do not produce self-directed citizens, have failed everyone—  
The student, the profession, and the society they are designed to serve.”***

**By Arthur W. Combs**

#### ***From Here to There to Anywhere***

“Rearing children is like holding a bar of very wet soap.

Too firm a grasp and it shoots from your hand.

Too loose a grasp, and it slides away.

A gentle but firm grasp keeps it in your control.”

**By Mary C. Walker**

#### ***Mindset: The New Psychology of Success***

“If a parent wants to give their child a real gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning.”

**Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D.**

Parents and teachers alike must:

Anticipate possible problems before they occur

Hesitate

Investigate

Communicate

Guide the child to the understanding that his/her action(s) (cause), brought about a consequence (effect). Thus, discipline becomes a learning tool rather than an action that creates fear or resentment.

A good day for a child is much like a day for adults. It includes:

- Something important to do and time to do it in.
- Opportunity for self-expression and time for fun.
- A certain amount of success and time for rest.
- Acceptance by the group and something to grow on.

Language, play every day...books and songs all day long. Shapes, colors, motor, life and visual skill, opposites, same/different, alphabet, sequencing, classification, counting and number skills, music and movement, art, and in-depth experience with children's literature, poetry, song, and rhyme. Emersion into big books and literature of all kinds.

We are delighted that you are here and hope your stay is fun, pleasant, and memorable! Welcome to a new school year and thank you for choosing Buttercup Hill!

