

Sonshine Preschool

551 N Camino Seco
Tucson AZ 85710
Sonshineprek.org
(520)885-1045



Konnichiwa-
A Big Thank You!

The "Rodeo Family Pizza Fun Day" lunch was a huge success! Thanks to all of you who were able to join your children and for the donations of drinks!!! Registration started on February 1st and is now open to the public. We already have waitlists in several classrooms.

We would prefer to know by Monday, April 7th if you wish to have your child attend our 7-week Summer Camp. Doing so will help us plan our summer staff schedules. Please help us by letting us know your plans. Thanks so much for your help.

Spring is in the air! As Spring begins, the children will be looking at how the season changes and how things begin to grow. Please remember that Sonshine is a very HANDS – ON School. Please send your children in PLAY CLOTHES and PLAY SHOES. They will get something on them, which is simply part of being a child and being able to enjoy the preschool environment. It is important to their development that they get to explore all the different types of media that is presented to them here at school. Please join in on your child's excitement with all our HANDS – ON FUN!

Teachers will be sending home progress reports in the first two weeks of April. If after receiving your child's progress report you would like a conference with your child's teacher, please reach out to them to set up a time.

Mrs. Castillo

Upcoming Events

Thursday March 6th-
Scholastic Book Order Due

****Please mark your calendars****

Friday, March 7th- Friday, March 14th
No School- Spring Break

Friday April 4th-
Closing Early at 3:00pm



Chapel Time

March 5th 6th
Jesus Calms the Storm

March 19th & 21st
Money in a Fish

March 26th & 28th
The Story of Zacchaeus



March Pizza Days
Wednesday March 5th
Wednesday March 19th
Friday March 28th



An Important Update Regarding Our Quality First Assessment

As you know, Sonshine is part of Quality First, an initiative that supports early childhood education programs in improving their quality. Every two years, Sonshine undergoes an assessment through Quality First, and the results of this assessment determine our star rating. We are incredibly proud to share that after our 2023 assessment, Sonshine earned an additional star, achieving a five-star rating. This is a major accomplishment, and we are excited to continue our commitment to high-quality education.

The time has come again for our biennial assessment, which will take place within a "3-week window" from March 24th to April 11th. During this period, our assessor will randomly select classrooms to be assessed using the ECERS/ITERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale/Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale).

We can confirm that the Busy Bees classroom will be assessed, as it is our designated ITERS classroom. The ECERS assessment will involve a random draw between the Fireflies, Ladybugs, and Butterflies classrooms.

Thank you for your continued support as we work towards maintaining and enhancing our star rating!

Kindergarten Registration

Most schools have begun registration for next fall's kindergarten class. "Is my child ready for kindergarten?" is a commonly asked question. Please talk to Mrs. Montes if you have concerns. Please keep in mind that children continue to grow and mature through the summer months. There is still five months until school starts again. Remember that Sonshine Preschool is a social development program; this has always been our main focus. Each child is introduced to a wide variety of activities, and we continue to allow children to progress at his/her own pace.

If your child:

- enjoys school
- does not have separation anxiety
- can follow directions
- practices self-control
- has an appropriate attention-span
- plays well with other children
- listens well to adults
- turns 5 before September 1st

he/she is ready for kindergarten. Sometimes children with late summer birthdays do benefit from another year of preschool. Boys usually mature at a slower pace than girls. Follow your heart. We are here to offer advice, but the decision is yours. Academic or other special needs are best addressed prior to kindergarten. Your children are already having a terrific first-school experience! Children who have attended a "Preschool Program," who are read to at home, offered outside activities, and have involved families are on a positive track to future success in school. Parents, keep up the great work!

Sonshine Preschool Summer Camp...Please note the SUMMER HOURS as we Close Early- 7:30 am to 4:30 pm!!!

This year we are offering 7 one WEEK SESSIONS. Registration has already begun and you must sign up for ***each*** session in advance. ALL children attending the summer program MUST BE HERE BY 8:45 a.m., and we will close EARLY at 4:30. Thanks in advance for your cooperation! In order to staff properly for the summer, we need your summer registration no later than Monday, April 7th. Summer Camp will begin on Monday, June 2nd, and end on Friday, July 18th. We are looking forward to having a lot of FUN!

Early Intervention is the Key

Sonshine Preschool is VERY pro-active in getting your child into early interventions when we see them having challenges with their Speech & Language Development, Social/Emotional Development, and with any other areas that could hinder their natural growth. Our Sonshine staff has years of expertise in this area. We generally refer your child to be evaluated with "AZ Early Intervention Program" or "Child Find" through your local school district. These are FREE screening processes and have been helping children improve upon many areas needed to get children ready to enter Kindergarten. Early Intervention is key! We are here to support you on your journey as parents and want the very best for your child. Some of our little ones just need a little extra help!

From our Teacher's Corner...

Busy Bees

March will be a fun filled month with the focus on spring. We will introduce spring activities, farm animals, and St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget to sign up for our summer program!

Fireflies

March will be filled with lots of spring related activities, and farm animals. We will discuss how a seed grows and we will be planting our own seeds.

Please don't forget to register for summer, and next year's program. Your child will need to be completely potty-trained and have turned 3 by August 31st to move on to the Ladybugs classroom. If you have questions about what to do, please check with Ms. Fatima. If your child is still not potty-trained, don't stress, there are still several months for them to get potty-trained. It is important however, that you begin working on it with them now to be sure that they are ready by next school year. If you need any tips or advice on potty-training, please reach out to us.

Ladybugs

February was a fun-filled month! The kids really enjoyed the festivities for Valentine's Day and the Rodeo! In March we will celebrate Dr. Suess and learn about rhyming words. We will then be working on patterns and sequencing. Can't wait for all the fun we're going to have. Keep an eye out next month for information regarding our Zoo Family Day which will be in April.

Butterflies

February was a fun month! Thank you so much to all our families for the Valentine cards. Your kids did a fantastic job matching the names and putting them in their friends' valentine bags. They were so excited and really had a fabulous time at their party! The Rodeo Day was so much fun! We really enjoyed seeing all of the families and the kids did such a great job singing in their rodeo attire.

In March we will learn about Dr. Seuss and plants. Keep an eye out next month for information regarding our zoo family "field trip" which will be in April.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**

*Savannah Alushaj
Courtney Peralta
Jameson McBrayer
Montgomery Bancroft
Anahelenna Martinez-
Pesqueira*



A Quick Look at What's Coming Up in the Next Few Months

more detailed information regarding these events will be available as the time gets closer.

❖ Closing Early

Sonshine Preschool will close at 3:00pm on Friday April 4th for a Staff Event.

❖ Good Friday No School

Friday April 18th is Good Friday and Sonshine Preschool will be closed.

❖ Sonshine All Family Zoo Trip

Tentatively scheduled for April 23rd. More details to come.

❖ School Carnival

Our Annual Sonshine Preschool Carnival will be the evening of Friday April 25th

❖ End of the School Year Important Dates

Wednesday, May 21st Butterfly Promotion (Children going on to Kindergarten only)

Thursday, May 22nd- Last day of School

Friday May 23rd through Friday, May 30th Closed for Memorial Day/Summer Break

Sonshine Preschool Summer Program: Please refer to registration materials to sign up:

Mon, June 2nd: First day Summer Program

Thurs June 19th Closed for Juneteenth

Fri July 4th: Closed for Independence Day

Fri July 18th: Last Day of Summer Program

PARENT BUSINESS CONNECTION

Would you like to place your business card in our Parent Connection section of our monthly newsletter? We distribute this newsletter to current and new prospective parents. The fee is \$10.00 per month for a business card ad, or \$35.00 for a business card ad for 4 consecutive months. We have limited space. If you would like to advertise in our next newsletter, please see Amanda, or call the office at 885-1045.



Do you ever have a question regarding your child and don't know who to ask? Check out the Southwest Human Development's Birth to Five Helpline. Southwest Human Development's Birth to Five Helpline is Arizona's only toll-free resource for parents, caregivers and professionals who have questions or concerns about the development of children ages birth to 5.