

# Whippersnapper's

## CLASSES

### What to Expect

Children ages 1-5 learn and grow together with classmates and parents/caregivers to become more confident, develop peer interactions, and also work on their motor skills, all through playing.

#### Outline of a Class:

1. 5-10 minutes of free play while children arrive
2. 4-5 minutes for circle time for introductions, sing-a-long songs and warm up exercises.
3. 5-10 minutes for an obstacle course to develop balance and large motor skills
4. 25-30 minutes of various activities to focus on sharing toys, following directions, playing cooperatively and interacting with others in the class
5. 2-5 minutes of free play
6. Circle time- sing-a-long goodbye song



\*\* Obstacle course and activities change each week to develop different skills and keep children engaged.

#### Class and Gym Policies:

**Class Time:** The first 5-10 minutes of the class is free play. We do not begin our circle time until after this free play. This time allows the children to come in and warm up a bit both physically as well as emotionally. It also allows them to play and use up a little energy before asking them to sit in circle time. The last few minutes of class is also free play time as the activities are cleaned up and put away prior to our ending circle time.

**Clean Up:** Children (and parents) are not required to clean up the toys that are used, however, if you would like to use this activity to ask your child to help clean up as a teaching opportunity, you are welcome to do that. We can always use some help putting the blocks or balls away after use, and this gives the children a chance to be responsible.

**Make Up Classes:** If you cannot make your regularly scheduled class for any reason, you are always welcome to make up the missed class by attending another class at another time any of the weeks in that session. All make up classes must be completed within the session in which the class was missed. We do not carry make up classes from one session to the next.

**Free Open Play:** With your registration in our classes, you also receive 1 free open play per week for the duration of the session in which you are enrolled. If you want to attend a second time during the week, the cost is \$7 per child. We do not carry free open plays from week to week. If you do not come to an open play one week of the session, you cannot use that missed one the following week to come twice.

**Parent Participation:** For our Terrific Tadpoles class, parents are required to stay and participate in class with their child. For our Fantastic Frogs class, parent participation is optional. You may stay in the gym, or you may leave the building completely, or you may even stay and watch from our observation room. If your child is not potty trained, you must stay in the building.

**Sibling Enrollment Discount:** We offer a 10% discount on sibling registrations. The lower price (if the classes are priced differently) will receive the discount.

**Sibling Visitation:** Younger siblings less than 1 year old are welcome to attend class with the enrolled child at no charge. Free sibling visitation for children over 1 year of age is allowed one time during the session. This may occur if there are school holidays, babysitter conflicts, etc. If the sibling must attend more than once per session, there is a \$20 fee for attendance with a maximum of 3 attendances. If the sibling child is home from school because they are sick, please do not bring them to the gym. You may make up the class at another time. Non-paying siblings can use gym equipment and toys during the class as long as a paying child is not waiting for that toy. For example, if we have 6 swings and 6 paying children, those 6 children have priority on the swings. If a paying child isn't interested in swinging, then you may use it for your non-paying child.

**Behavior Expectations:** Our classes are considered to be "encouraged structure". We bring different equipment and toys out to play with, we sing songs, we do obstacle courses and we encourage the children to participate in our activity together. Sometimes children want to do something else, and that is ok. If your child does not want to play with blocks when we have the blocks out or swing when we have the swings out, that is perfectly fine. We will try to encourage them to play with the item, but they are always welcome to go do something else. If your child is having a hard time sharing, or having a temper tantrum, please know that you aren't alone. We have all been through this. We are a judgment-free zone and we encourage you to handle the behavior issues as you see fit. If you need to let them have a tantrum in the gym in order to help teach them, that is your choice and you are free to do whatever works for you. Please don't feel like you need to give in to them, or rush them out of the gym just to keep them calm. We are a space for learning and that includes behavior learning as well. The teachers here will encourage basic polite behavior, sharing, saying please and thank you, no pushing, etc.

**Please do not allow your children to go into the toy closet:** There are many toys stacked on high shelves and it is not a safe environment for toddlers.

**There are no food or drinks allowed in the gym:** Please keep all drinks and snacks in the kitchen. You are welcome to use our water cooler as long as the cups of water stay in the kitchen.

**No shoes are allowed in the gym:** Socks are recommended to make the slides easier to slide down, but not required.

**Sign in Sheet:** You do not need to sign in for classes. We keep attendance records separately. If you come for Open Play, please make sure to sign in.