



Frequently Asked Questions

Bridges Early Learning Center

An Early Childhood Development Center
at the Emerson Center

Director: Brenda Neely

Assistant Director: Yehsica Folkerds

License Number: C15IR0060

1590 27th Avenue, Suite A+

Vero Beach, FL 32960

Pre-School (772) 778-5981

Nursery (772) 562-7098

7:00a.m.-6:00p.m.

www.bridgeselc.org

*“A Preschool that is as unique as
your child.”*

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May we help you find answers? Do you have a question we have not covered? Call us.

General Questions

Q. Do you have any openings? Do you have a waiting list?

A. Our vacancy situation is constantly changing. We frequently have openings in one age-group, but not in others. When this situation occurs, we maintain a waiting list. We recommend inquiring as soon as possible to make certain we can secure your enrollment.

Q. Where are you located?

A. We are on the south side of The Emerson Center,

B. 1590 27th Avenue in Vero Beach, near the corner of 16th street and 27th avenue. Look for Suite A+.

Q. How long have you been serving children?

A. Bridges has been in continuous operation since October 2005. Nearly 1100 children have been served during our time.

Q. Is the center licensed?

A. Yes, we are licensed under the State of Florida with license number C15IR0060.

Q. Do you conform to Florida state standards for childcare centers?

A. Bridges is one of the top providers in Indian River County that meets and exceeds Florida standards for Day Care and VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten)

Q. What is traffic like during typical morning and evening pick-up times?

A. We open at 7:00a.m. and close promptly at 6:00p.m. Busiest drop-off times are between 7:45a.m and 8:45a.m. Expect the most pick-up time between 4:40p.m. and 5:30p.m.

Q. Do you offer part-time or flexible care? Before and after school care?

A. Part-time care is available for either three full days a week or for 5 hours or less five days a week. However, to assure we are properly staffed, we do not offer flexible care. We do offer before and after school care for students at 6 nearby schools. Our bus departs at 7:45a.m. and stops at Citrus Elementary,

Imagine Charter, Rosewood Magnet, Vero Beach Elementary, and Glendale Elementary. We start afternoon pickups at 2:30p.m. and are back to our center by 3:45p.m.

Q. What steps do you take to insure a clean and safe environment?

A. Our classrooms are clean, safe, secure, and inviting. Cleanliness is everyone's job. Trash is removed from the building three times each day. Similarly, bathrooms are checked and cleaned three times daily (or as needed). Cleanliness is a top priority and on every staff members' job descriptions.

Q. How large is the center (size of classrooms and other facilities)?

A. The center comprises ten total classrooms with more than 3,000 total square-feet. Our rooms are inviting, comfortable, and child friendly. There is easy access to age-appropriate toys, books, computers, and training resources. The two playgrounds invite fresh air, fun, and healthy exercise under the watchful eye of our vigilant staff.

Hours of Operation

Q. What are your operating hours?

A. We are open

B. Monday-Friday, 7:00a.m.-6:00p.m.

Q. What happens if I need to bring my child early or pick him up late?

A. We open at 7:00a.m. and close promptly at 6:00p.m. We ask that you please have your child here no later than 9:00a.m. Classes begin with Circle Time at 8:30a.m. (Our VPK program starts at 8:30a.m.) Your child must be picked up no later than 6:00p.m. There is a late fee of \$1.00 per minute, per child, according to the office clock.

Q. Will I be charged if I take a vacation or my child is sick?

following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Black Friday, and Christmas Day. If a holiday falls on a weekend, we will observe that day on Friday or Monday.

Organization

Q. How many children to you serve?

A. Our ratios are based on the Department of children and Families standards with a current maximum capacity of 113 children.

Q. What are the ages of the children?

A. We serve children 6 weeks to 9 years old.

Q. Do you care for the same group of children every day?

A. Yes.

Q. Are the children organized by age?

A. Yes, we serve children in similar age groups to facilitate socialization and team learning.

Q. What is the staff-to-child ratio in the classroom my child would be in? Does this ratio change throughout the day or will it always remain at or below this level?

A. We fully conform to Florida state standards for staff-to-child ratios. Here is what that means: Infants, 4:1, 1 year old 6:1, 2 years old 11:1, 3 years old 15:1, 4 years old 20:1, VPK 11:1, and school aged children 25:1.

Q. How do you discipline children?

A. Our discipline policy is consistent with the age of the children. We believe in using a positive approach using re-direction, direct and indirect praise, and logical consequences. Physical punishment is never permitted, by any persons.

We regularly give parents reports (daily reports for infants, weekly reports for others) We distribute monthly newsletters, maintain a “Parent Information Center” at the door to each classroom, and send home activity reminders. Importantly, performance assessments are provided to every parent three times a year at the VPK level.

Q. What are your expectations of parents?

A. We ask parents to be proactive in support of their child’s development and step forward whenever they feel their child requires special attention. In addition, we encourage parents to be involved in curriculum-based activities with their child. We have an open-door policy.

Q. Is there a parents’ group or program?

A. Many activities facilitate parental involvement with other parents. We stage many events and parents get acquainted as they participate in our functions and activities.

Q. May I drop in at any time?

A. Yes! Parents are welcomed at any time. Our door is always open to parents and caregivers. Communication is important. And, while we carefully manage security, visits are invited at any time.

Q. May I take part in special events and trips?

A. To encourage parent involvement, we plan several events each year. We host a Mother’s Day Tea, a Father’s Day Ice Cream Social, a Fall Festival, a Thanksgiving luncheon, a Christmas program, Graduation Ceremony (for VPK), a lending library, and more. Frequently, with parental cooperation, we will stage birthday parties (or other celebrations) to honor our students. We want your involvement and readily accept help from parent volunteers.

Security

Q. What steps do you take to assure the safety and security of my child?

A. Our priority is the well-being and

safety of your child and our staff members. First, we control access to the property with an electronic lock system on our front door. Also, as a safety procedure, we conduct fire drills monthly and other emergency drills where we evacuate to the sanctuary of the church. In the event of an emergency, we will contact parents immediately. Additionally, each teacher is required to take daily attendance records and document head counts.

Q. Is there restrictions of who may pick up my child?

A. You are required to provide us with names, addresses, and numbers of persons authorized to pick-up your child. Admission to the center is only granted with proper ID. At times, you may want to grant a limited time authority to pick up (say, a visiting grandparent). For those cases, we need permission from the primary person on the file to give permission in writing (handwritten or email). In all circumstances, anyone picking up your child other than you will be asked to provide us with proper identification.

Activities

Q. What is the range of activities in which the children participate?

A. Our core curriculum, Beyond Centers and Circle Time is a play-based educational plan. Children need time to play, adequate space to play, and developmentally appropriate props with which to play. Play provides children opportunities to explore, manipulate, and interact with their environment.

Q. What is a day like for the children?

A. A typical day begins with “Circle Time”, where students are briefed on plans for the day and receive a short lesson. Afterwards, we break into “centers” where small teams practice skills, play, or perform learning activities. During the morning, students rotate among various activity stations. At some point, they break for outside activities, lunch, and a nap. Afternoons follow a similar format, although we frequently feature special activities, often involving music, art, or other activities conceived by our instructors or resourceful parents.

Q. Is there an outside play area? Do children use it every day?

A. Yes. Our two fenced playgrounds provide fresh air, fun, and healthy exercise under the watchful eye of our diligent staff. The playgrounds are well equipped with age-appropriate equipment.

Q. Do you let the children watch TV?

A. Children's movies are selected on Friday afternoons only. Typically, we integrate the movie content into the curriculum plan. Staff uses the time for administrative duties, including preparing reports for the parents.

Q. Do you encourage children to read?

A. Yes! We also invite them to borrow books from our lending library.

Q. What do you offer to specifically meet the needs of my child?

A. At the onset, we invite you to a Discovery Session- that is our way to make certain we're identifying the uniqueness of your child and creating a plan that will help your child. From time to time, we may update this plan so it can "grow" as your child grows.

Staff

Q. What is the tenure of the staff? What is your staff turnover rate?

A. Many of our staff members have been here since Bridges' opening in 2005- including the Director and Assistant Director. Plus, we have been able to recruit new teachers from time to time.

Q. Is each child assigned to a primary caregiver? Who is the teacher that will work with my child?

Q. What are the hiring procedures? Are background checks conducted on all staff members?

A. We carefully screen all employees, conducting the background screenings that meet state standards.

In the event of illness

Q. What happens if my child becomes ill or is injured at the Center?

A. Should an accident occur you will be given an accident/incident report. Please sign the report and give it back to the teacher, however, if you want copy of it for your records, you may request one.

Q. What kind of medical information do you need?

A. That state requires us to gather medical information on each child. We will need your cooperation in meeting this requirement. The documentation must include immunization and physical records. All records are kept confidential.

Q. If my child gets sick would you give him medication?

A. We administer medications under written instructions from a parent or doctor. If your child becomes ill while in our care you will be notified immediately for prompt pick up. Should he/she run a fever, you must wait a full 24 hours from the last time the fever was present before returning.

Q. Do you let children attend if they have a runny nose or cough?

