



SmartKids Street 10 Talk

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Class Size—What's The Best Fit?



Is class size an important influence on the quality and educational effectiveness of preschool programs? Teachers and parents generally believe so. Common sense suggests that smaller classes and higher staff-child ratios are better for young children, allowing more individual attention, reducing the time and effort devoted to classroom management, and reducing the number of stressful interactions.

Instruction of children in small groups affords both young children and their teachers invaluable and unique opportunities. Children can receive individualized attention and instruction that may not be possible in large group activities. Studies demonstrate that class size is one of the components of a quality preschool program that produces positive outcomes for young children. Research on child care classrooms indicates that when groups are smaller and staff-child ratios are higher, teachers provide more stimulating, responsive, warm, and supportive interactions. They also provide more individualized attention, engage in more dialogues with children, and spend less time managing children and more time in educational activities.

Barnett, W., Shore, R., & Schulman, K. (2004). *Class size: What's the best fit?* (Preschool Policy Matters Issue No. 9). New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research. Retrieved October 25, 2005, from <http://nieer.org/resources/policybriefs/9.pdf>.



Important dates to remember

Week Commencing
19th November
Parent teacher meetings.

1st week in December
- Santa comes to SmartKids!

Friday 14th
December - Last Day of School

Monday 7th January -
Non-Children day.

Children return to SmartKids on
Tuesday 8th January.





Parent/Child Group

On Tuesdays and Wednesday from 8:30 am –10:00 am, SmartKids Street 10 has a Parent/Child Group from children ages 1-3 years old. The group is lead by one of the SmartKids teachers. Each week we meet new parents and children. Parents are sharing the challenges of parenthood and living in a new country. The children are making new friends to play with.



SPAGHETTI WITH MINCED BEEF

Ingredients:

- ⊗ 500 grams minced beef
- ⊗ 500 grams chopped tomato
- ⊗ 3 finely chopped carrots
- ⊗ 200 grams chopped mushrooms
- ⊗ 50 grams onions
- ⊗ Spaghetti
- ⊗ 100 grams grated cheese
- ⊗ Garlic and salt to taste

Directions:

- ⊗ Boil spaghetti until softened
- ⊗ Boil carrots and mushroom for 5 minutes
- ⊗ Heat oil in a pan, add chopped onion, garlic and cook until good smelling.
- ⊗ Add minced beef and cook for 5 minutes
- ⊗ Add tomato, carrot, mushroom until softened
- ⊗ Add salt to taste
- ⊗ Add cheese on top
- ⊗ You could use honey if you want a little sweetener added.

At

SmartKids we believe a healthy diet is essential to children's learning. Each morning children have a snack that includes fruit followed by a savory item and juice without sugar. For lunch, each day a hot meal is freshly prepared by our kitchen with a 5 week rotating menu. Many parents have asked for our delicious recipes. One of the children's favorite lunch time meals is spaghetti with minced beef. Rarely are there leftovers.



Dear Parents,

Your child develops and grows, so is SmartKids.

We have introduced our After School Activities (for children from 3 to 6 years old) in all three of our locations now. Tuesday afternoon in Thao Dien, Wednesday in Tran Ngoc Dien and Thursday in Riverside, Street Number 10. All ASA classes run from 3:15-4:45 pm

I also would like to inform you about our facebook page, on which we keep friends of SmartKids informed about what is going on at the three locations. Should you wish to be part of this small network, please let us know your facebook contact details and we will invite you to our page.

I look forward to welcoming you and let's make it a great year!

Ms. Joke Otter