

Above & Beyond

Frequently Asked Questions & Family Testimonials



I see Above & Beyond follows the Reggio Emilia Approach. What does that mean?

Our environment reflects our values of supporting and enhancing every child's natural desire to learn and grow in a comfortable, safe environment. Through the Reggio approach, teachers are seen as partners in the children's learning and provide materials to build on the child's interests. Teachers will guide and support children's natural instincts to explore and gain knowledge inside and outside of the classroom. Reggio's focus is on first developing the child's social-emotional skills to provide a strong foundation for current developmentally appropriate as well as future learning.

I have heard of Montessori, is that the same thing?

The following is a very basic overview of the main differences between the two philosophies. Both are derived from Italy from the early to mid 1900's. On the surface, these approaches are comparable. However, the meaningful differences are present in the way in which the children are expected to interact with the materials and classroom environment. Although both philosophies seek to educate the whole child, they do so in different ways. Montessori's philosophy is supported by the principle that children can naturally absorb knowledge from their surroundings and self-direct their education through exploration. Whereas Reggio's philosophy focuses on presenting materials in interesting, provoking ways based on the interests of the child that they can manipulate without creative expectations being placed on them.

Reggio teachers are partners in learning with children and encourage them to follow their interests. Children are encouraged to work together, be responsible and respectful. A Montessori teacher's role is to observe in the background and allow children to work independently. Montessori provides pre-determined activities that children work on independently. They also follow a curriculum based on academics while a traditional Reggio program functions to allow for continual projects and explorations that evolve guided by the child.

Environment is also important to the two philosophies. Montessori provides tables or the floor for the children to work at whereas Reggio encourages collaboration as the child is allowed to freely move about the classroom and make choices. Montessori's materials are self-corrective compared to Reggio's that encourages creativity, inquiry and exploration. Through this process, the teachers document the children's continual learning in both Reggio and Montessori models.

How will I see and know my child is learning?

Our assessments are ongoing; which means we are continually adding pieces of evidence to document their learning. We use the COR (Child Observation Record) Advantage across all classrooms which is our main assessment tool to document the children's social emotional and academic skills. Additional documentation of learning takes form in documentations posted in the classroom, on Classtag and in your

child's portfolio. It is important that you reference your child's portfolio regularly as this is one of the ways we communicate your child's learning. With these documentations, we host parent-teacher conferences twice a year and as needed to discuss goals and strengths for moving forward.

What are the ages that you have in your center?

Above & Beyond has five classrooms: infants, young toddlers/mobile infants, toddlers, preschool and pre-kindergarten. We care for children from 6 weeks-5 years old.

- We have a total of 4 children with 1 teacher in our infant classroom.
- We have a total of 12 children with 3 teachers in our young toddler classroom.
- We have a total of 12 children with 3 teachers in our toddler classroom.
- We have a total of 17 children with 3 teachers in our preschool classroom.
- We have a total of 8 children with 1 teacher in our pre-kindergarten classroom.

How will information about my child's day be communicated to me?

ClassTag is the online communication tool that is used in our classrooms. ClassTag is a secure "invitation only" per classroom app that allows for the teachers to post daily pictures, reminders, and additional information that needs to be communicated to all families. Each classroom has their own closed group, which includes only the teachers and parents of the children in the specific classroom. Each classroom also has their own iPad with an email address that you can email at any point to check in or if you have questions.

Our infants and toddlers will have daily sheets that parents fill out at drop off and the teachers will complete throughout the day. Information includes the food they ate, diaper changes, and a short note about their day.

What are your hours of operation and when are you closed?

We are open Monday through Friday 6:30am-6:30pm. Tuition includes up to 10 hours of care each day for your child. We are closed New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Martin Luther King Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Christmas Eve we closed at 12pm. Tuition does not change on these holidays. If a holiday falls on the weekend, A&B will not honor the holiday, we will be open as scheduled.

Above & Beyond has 4 days - including MLK Day - in which we can be closed to be used to our discretion. This could be for snow days, staff development days, for example. Please see the family handbook for more details during the enrollment meeting before your child begins at Above & Beyond.

Above & Beyond does not offer vacation time for our children. We operate just as other "private school" entities and are a tuition based center.

How can I be involved at Above & Beyond?

Each family is encouraged to spend any amount of time in any classroom at Above & Beyond as we have an "open door policy". This can be done in a plethora of ways and can be any part of your family unit. We also host family events throughout the year. This is a great opportunity to get to know the other families and teachers and continues to build a strong "school family".

What does weekly tuition include?

Tuition includes up to 10 hours of care per day within our hours of 6:30am-6:30pm. There is an additional charge for children staying longer than 10 hours per day. Above & Beyond will provide diapers, wipes, and sunscreen for the children in our center. If you would like cream applied to your child after diapering, it must be provided to the teacher. We also have a full time cook on staff who prepares breakfast, lunch and two afternoon snacks each day. We send out a monthly menu of what will be served each day for you to reference.

Family Testimonials:

Our son has been a student at A&B since he was 3 months old and we could not be happier (he is now 33 months old)! The name of the school is a testament to how dedicated, loving, and passionate each and every teacher is here! They are a true extension of us and we feel very fortunate that our child has such wonderful people to care for him each day while we are at work. The way the program here is structured allows the children to develop a high level of emotional intelligence early on, independence, self-confidence, and fantastic relationships all through play-based learning. It is not "daycare" it is a wonderful learning environment. Our son will be well prepared for not only Kindergarten, but these skills will last a lifetime. The families here are also a great community. We could honestly write a novel about how fantastic A&B is!

----Becky G.

A&B is more than simply a daycare provider. Staff members are an extension of your family - each and every day. Teachers and staff involve themselves in the developmental and emotional needs of your child, with activities designed to help move your child to their next natural milestone. As a grandparent, I cannot stress enough how vital and impressive this is - already having 30+ years of parenting and educational experience!

----Deb S.

The staff at Above & Beyond are wonderful people that really care about the children. Our daughter has really grown in her social-emotional intelligence while there, building the skills that lead to a happier life. They are owned by a pediatrician, so they practice good hygiene. We are so glad to have found Above & Beyond!

----Erik H.

We found A&B 5 years ago when my oldest son was 2, speech delayed and needed some additional help. A&B went out of their way to work with our speech therapist and us as a family to ensure we were doing everything for him and in 10 months he was caught up. It was no question when we had our second that he would go to A&B. We love the small class sizes, kid to teacher ratio, the center itself is built at the children's level. The staff is incredible and are always innovating! New classroom setups, crafts, activities, etc. We cannot thank them enough for the education, socialization and love they have given our two boys!!

----Laura H.C

We love Above and Beyond! Both our girls started there at 2 months old, and it's the best decision we've made. The teachers are so knowledgeable, helpful and creative. They genuinely love our girls and treat them as though they were their own children. Our girls have learned so much through play. The teachers create activities based on their interests, and it's been so exciting to watch their interests grow and learn to love leaving. We all love Above and Beyond.

----Sarah L.

Sending our kids to Above and Beyond has been one of the best decisions we could have made. Our daughter started there at 14 months and our boys started there at age 2. The Director and teachers go beyond their call of duty to make the environment one where the kids feel safe, cared for, challenged and respected. They let the kids be kids...they get messy, go out in the rain, make mistakes, explore and ask questions. My kids social-emotional awareness and abilities are incredible, and I know it's because of the work the teachers and staff have put into them. I couldn't have asked for a better start for my kids. My daughter is in 1st grade now and is thriving~I'm so happy I was able to give her and my boys (who are still enrolled at A&B) this foundation in their development and learning :)

----Denae M.