



**Durant High School's
Little Cougars Preschool
4748 Cougar Path
Plant City, FL 33567
757-9075 ext. 266**

Thank you for your interest in the Little Cougars Preschool located at Durant High School off of Turkey Creek Rd. The program serves the local community and provides a laboratory experience for our high school students.

How the program operates

The preschool is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week from **8:40 until 11:15** during the school year. We accept potty-trained 3-year olds and 4-year olds who do not qualify for V-PreK. (We are NOT a V-PreK provider).

The Little Cougars Preschool must adhere to the calendar of the Hillsborough County School District. There will be days when preschool will not be in operation due to exams or days off for public school students. We do, however, try to make up a missed day on the Friday of that week.

The cost of Durant's preschool program is \$50 per month payable the first of each month. Several "short" months, such as September and May shall be prorated at the rate of \$12.50 per week. Tuition monies are used to purchase learning materials, supplies for the children and party goods. We are non-profit. Tuition may be paid in cash or by check made out to "**Durant High School**". A receipt will be issued for payment. There is also a one-time charge of \$3.75 for school insurance to cover your child while on the premises of Durant High School.

The purpose of the program

Early Childhood Education programs exist in many of the high schools in Hillsborough County. Some of these programs operate a childcare center as part of the curriculum. At Durant High School, the Little Cougars Preschool is a "lab-based" situation for teaching high school students developmentally appropriate methods for teaching young children, as well as guiding young children.

The childcare schedule is set in the most developmentally sound way while accommodating the needs of the high school students. Students are asked to plan lessons and design learning centers in an effort to teach young children skills in math, science, art, literacy, and social science. Students teach these skills using art, music, play and dramatic play.

The majority of the child's day is spent in learning centers. The child also has the opportunity to use the outdoor learning environment (sandbox, wheeled toys, water table, etc.).

Curriculum

The curriculum of the Little Cougars Preschool is based upon the most current and developmentally-based thinking in teaching young children. We use the theories and suggested methodology put forth by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our director, Ms. James, has had experience teaching in a private preschool for 11 years and is a certified elementary and high school teacher.

Items to bring to school

- A complete change of clothing (top, bottom, underwear, socks) to be kept in bookbag at all times or in cubbie bin at school
- Bookbag or bag to carry home daily work
- Closed-in shoes that allow freedom of movement and are comfortable. (Flip flops fall off in outside play running around.)
- Special messages for the staff (new pick-up person, medical information, etc.)

What else do I need to do?

- Make sure you send in a **copy** of your child's birth certificate, immunization record, application, and required signature forms for enrollment.
- Look for an informational letter concerning the first day of school in late August! You may text or call Ms. Katherine James, Director, for additional information at (813) 215-7668.

In order to learn more about your child and to help provide positive learning activities, please answer the following:

What are the names and ages of child's siblings? _____

Are there any specific interests your child has? _____

Does your child have any fears? (Please name any) _____

Does your child dress himself/herself? _____

Does your child need assistance with toileting? _____

How does your child indicate when he/she needs to use the bathroom? _____

How does your child get along with other children? _____

Please discuss anything else we should know about your child. _____

What do you hope your child gains from our preschool program? _____

Additional information: We charge a very small school insurance policy fee to cover each child. (Approximately \$3.75)

Tuition fees are set by the School District of Hillsborough County and we comply with their charges.

If you need to reach me outside of school hours, you may reach me on my personal cell #813-215-7668 or by email: Katherine.james@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

Little Cougars Preschool Policies

Attendance: All children shall be signed in and out each day in the attendance book by the parent, legal guardian, or a parent designee. As a courtesy to our teachers, please be punctual when picking up your child.

Change of clothing: All children must have a change of clothing to be kept at school or in their bookbag at all times in case of accidents. Please provide a shirt, shorts/pants, underwear and socks in a Ziploc bag.

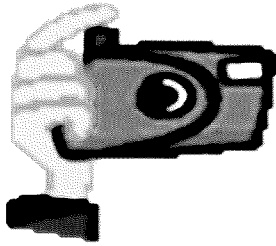
Children's health: In order to keep all children healthy, please keep your child home for 24 hours after a fever has broken, if your child has diarrhea, at the onset of a common cold, or if your child has a productive cough (coughing up a substance). If your child becomes ill while at school, parents will be called immediately to pick up their child. Medical records, such as relevant health information (allergies, chronic conditions), immunization records and emergency contact lists are required to be kept up to date and in your child's file in order that we may keep your child healthy and safe.

Discipline: The Little Cougars Preschool uses a positive approach to discipline and utilizes praise and positive reinforcement to minimize the need for disciplinary action. Correction and guidance will be consistent, constructive and developmentally appropriate. Children will not be subjected to offensive verbal abuse, embarrassment or humiliation. No child will be deprived of food or bathroom privileges. Corporal punishment is unacceptable as a means of discipline. Misconduct will be handled in the following ways:

- Child will be given a verbal reminder with choices and consequences.
- Child will be redirected to another activity or area which may prevent escalation of the problem.
- Child shall be encouraged, with adult support, to use their own words and solutions in order to resolve interpersonal conflicts.
- Supervised time out shall not exceed more than 1 minute for each year of age of the child and shall only be used for purposes of allowing the child to regain control.
- In the event that a child's behavior is consistently disruptive, parents will be notified and a conference shall take place to discuss ways to encourage positive behavior at school and to develop a plan for improvement.

I have read, understand and agree with the policies of the Little Cougars Preschool.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



**Hillsborough County Public Schools
Photography/Videotaping Permission Form**

Little Cougars Preschool/Durant High School, 4748 Cougar Path, Plant City, FL 33567

My child, _____, has my permission to be photographed or videotaped for use in school publications, school productions or for use by the general news media for print or broadcast purposes.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



Walking Field Trip Permission

I give my permission for _____ to be included on all campus-based walking field trips.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____