

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Small Fries Preschool is a part-day early childhood program for children ages 3–5 years old. We provide a secure and comfortable learning environment for your child to discover and cultivate his/her own unique abilities and interests by creating a developmentally appropriate atmosphere of stimulation, opportunity and discovery.

Classroom teachers utilize the Colorado Early Learning and Developmental Guidelines to develop both individual and group lesson plans. Our curriculum includes a balance of structured, teacher-led lessons and play-based, child-directed activities. Our style of intentional planning provides a comprehensive approach to each child's unique social, emotional, cognitive, creative and physical development.



Children develop readiness skills in all areas of development through quality interactions with both adults and peers in the classroom. We teach self-regulation and self-esteem through respect for ourselves, each other, our belongings and our environment. Children learn conflict resolution and problem-solving skills through positive guidance and redirection.

### Teaching Staff in the Classroom

Knowledgeable and compassionate Early Childhood Teachers maintain professional certifications through the State of Colorado's Office of Early Childhood. All staff complete annual training in health and safety, social-emotional learning and developmentally appropriate practices. Through primary caregiving and continuity of care, teachers build consistent, long-term relationships with children and families.

Bi-annual parent/teacher conferences provide opportunities to share observations, data and assessments, giving families a clear understanding of their child's unique developmental journey.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

City of Loveland Parks & Recreation's Activity Guide contains current program session dates and is available at the Chilson Recreation Center.  
**View the Guide Online at:** [lovgov.org/ActivityGuide](http://lovgov.org/ActivityGuide)

### Small Fries Preschool Contact Information

Lisa Stratton, Early Education Director  
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### Follow Us on Facebook

@CityofLovelandParksRecreation  
@CityofLovelandChilsonCenter



There also is a private group page maintained for currently enrolled Small Fries families to share classroom photos and receive classroom reminders.



### Learn More!

[lovgov.org/SmallFries](http://lovgov.org/SmallFries)

- Small Fries Preschool Program (ages 3–5)
- Early Learning Preschool & PreK Prep Series (ages 2–5)
- Variety of parent/tot and preschool-aged classes (athletics, nature-based, art/pottery, music and more)



# SMALL FRIES PRESCHOOL PROGRAM



A state-licensed and quality-rated comprehensive preschool program for your 3 to 5 year old that includes a balance of play-based, child-directed discovery and teacher-led small group activities. Kindergarten-readiness is ensured through the encouragement of self-regulation, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**MORE INFO:** [lovgov.org/SmallFries](http://lovgov.org/SmallFries)



## SMALL FRIES CLASS TIMES

**Th/F Preschool Class** | 9:00A–12:00P  
(child must be toilet trained and turn three years old prior to their first day attending the program)

**M/T/W Pre-Kindergarten Class (UPK)** | 8:30A–1:30P  
(child must turn four years old prior to 10/1 of current school year)



## ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION

Small Fries Preschool hosts an annual Open House in late January. Registrations for Fall Preschool (3's) begins in early February. Families who would like to join our PreK (4's) program can apply for UPK online at [upk.colorado.gov](http://upk.colorado.gov). Classroom tours are available at any time during the school year.

### Program Fees & Tuition Payments

An annual \$35 per child, non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of enrollment. Session fees for Preschool (3's) are calculated based on the number of classes scheduled. Families may pay the session fee in full or divide it into monthly tuition payments. No refunds or household credits are given when classes are cancelled due to inclement weather.

Small Fries participates in Universal PreK (4's) and provides 15 hours of free programming to eligible students. To apply for UPK, visit [upk.colorado.gov](http://upk.colorado.gov) and select Small Fries Preschool as your top choice provider.

Small Fries Preschool follows the Thompson Valley School District calendar for major holidays, breaks and weather or emergency closures. The full school-year calendar is set annually and shared with enrolled families in the Parent & Family Handbook.

## MISSION

Our mission is to lay a foundation of diverse abilities that promote the development of Kindergarten readiness skills including self-confidence, critical thinking and a love of learning.

## ENRICHMENT & FAMILY EVENTS

Small Fries Preschool is located inside Chilson Recreation Center in downtown Loveland. Our City Civic Center setting gives us access to a wide range of indoor and outdoor amenities. Indoor enrichments with Chilson instructors may include dance, music, yoga and more. Outdoor experiences feature nature walks around the Foote Lagoon and regular visits to the Civic Center Park playground. Walking field trips to the Loveland Library and downtown cultural events help connect us with our community.

We offer opportunities for Small Fries families to engage in the program and get to know each other throughout the school year. We welcome family members and children's caregivers to visit and volunteer in the classroom. School-wide events including family picnics, parades, potluck dinners, holiday programs and celebrations allow families to be a part of their child's early learning experience.



## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Skyhawks Sports, sports camps and leagues
- Gymnastics and tumbling classes
- Yoga and dance programs
- LEGO®, science, craft/pottery classes
- Preschool Prep Series, Mini-Camps and more!

## DAILY EXPERIENCES

**Circle Times:** These large group experiences foster self-awareness within a group setting and promote the development of self-regulation. Circle time opportunities also create a sense of community through singing, reading and journaling. Children review daily jobs that may include friend counter, snack helper and line leader.

**Small Group Lessons:** These teacher-led activities nurture cognitive stimulation and fine motor skill development. Children practice reading, writing and symbolic awareness as they become familiar with letters, numbers, shapes, colors and patterns.

**Learning Center Rotations:** Children interact with their teachers and friends in a child-directed setting that nurtures social and emotional development. Teachers intentionally design interest centers to support thematic elements of the curriculum.

**STEAM Activities:** Children explore science, technology, engineering, art and math concepts through an ongoing rotation of child-friendly block, science and sensory centers. During warmer months, our attached patio serves as an outdoor extension of these explorations.

**Books & Manipulatives:** Children develop a love of literacy by listening, sharing and reading stories. Puzzles and other manipulatives encourage spatial awareness through use of fine motor skills.

**Music & Movement:** Phonetics, rhyming, recall and recognition are taught through finger plays and song. Creative expression and body awareness are encouraged through movement and dance.

**Physical Activity:** Large motor activities such as group games, playground time and obstacle courses foster physical coordination and core strength.

**Snack:** Children practice hand-washing techniques, respectful table manners and appreciation. Independence is encouraged through the setting, serving and cleaning up of place settings.

**Clean Up:** Organization, responsibility and care of the classroom environment occurs through a collaborative, community effort.