

McDowell Mountain Community Preschool Program

McDowell Mountain Community Preschool is a unique program. We are a four star rating preschool with Quality First/First Things First. Our preschool is a half day program Monday – Friday from 8:45 am to 11:15 am or 12:40 pm – 3:15 pm, serving 18 students in each class. We follow the Fountain Hills Unified School District calendar August through May, observing the same holidays and breaks. The monthly fee for half day is \$330.00 payable on the first of each month. For those families who need assistance with tuition, we do offer First Things First scholarships. To be eligible for a scholarship one needs to financially qualify by providing proof of one month current income pay stubs, and tax form 1040, or form 1099, or documentation of receipt of public assistance. Your child must be 3 – 5 years old and totally potty trained to take part in the Community Preschool.

The teachers at McDowell Mountain Preschool are highly qualified. They have their Endorsement or their Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and their Bachelor's Degree in Education kindergarten – eighth grade. The teacher's assistants have their certification in Early Childhood Education or are in the process of achieving this certification by attending classes.

Preschool activities at McDowell Mountain include hands-on themes such as Farm Animals, The Desert, and All About Me, just to name a few. Our themes revolve around centers of play in the classroom. We teach Zoo Phonics. This is a Kinesthetic Method for teaching phonics, reading, and spelling using literature. McDowell Mountain Preschool also follows the Early Learning Standards and Teaching Strategies Gold, which comes from the Arizona Department of Education. They cover Social, Emotional, Language & Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Development, and Fine Arts.

We go on some wonderful field trips throughout the year. For example, a field trip to The Phoenix Zoo complements a Desert Unit and Farm Animals with an opportunity for students to see real live animals first hand. We go on Community field trips to visit Bashas, Ace Hardware, the Public Library, and have lunch at Senor Taco as a class. The Community Preschool also visits Fountain Hills View Village three times a year to sing to the Senior Citizens. It gives the students a chance to learn and explore about our Community and experience all the wonderful things we have here in Fountain Hills. Preschool puts on two concerts each year including a graduation ceremony. This allows our preschoolers to perform for their parents, grandparents, and friends, as well as the Kindergartners at McDowell Mountain Elementary School.

McDowell Mountain Preschool is a special place to learn about our world, ourselves, and each other. The most important part of these preschool years is the opportunity to gain self-esteem and confidence for continued learning and to support the family unit. What a great place to start!

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 480-664-5200. We also have an open door policy. If you would like to come visit our preschool and speak to someone about our program you are more than welcome.