A day in Building Blocks...

**Greeting and free choice time** 8:15-8:55/11:30-12:10
At the start of class, teachers will open the doors and invite everyone inside. As children come into class, they are greeted and given time to explore the room and play with friends. Coats should be hung in the cubbies in the cubby corner, and parents need to sign their child in at the parent information counter inside the classroom. There is sunscreen available for parents to apply if not done so at home.

**Outside or Gym time** 8:55-9:25/12:10-12:40
We try and go outside to the playground whenever possible. When weather is less than ideal we use the gym, which provides us ample room to run as well as kid sized sports equipment, scooters to ride, and space for group games. We also have access to the indoor playground, depending on use from other programs and recreation center guests.

**Circle Time** 9:25-10:10/12:40-1:25
We meet on the ABC rug. Each child is given a ‘special letter’ to sit on, which will change throughout the year. We begin each day by choosing a ‘helper’ to lead us through the helper jobs – talking about the weather, choosing a number fish, completing our calendar, and more. For the remainder of circle time, we read stories and participate in fun activities to reinforce our theme – we dance, play games, enjoy using the felt board, and do group projects. Every day includes time to sing, and lots of movement!

**Center Time** 10:10-10:45/1:25-2:00
At this time, kids are encouraged to explore all areas of our room. We use multiple centers that reinforce our themes, build on beginning skills, and encourage play. Craft activities are a constant and include a variety of materials that change each day. Our block area is always open, as is our dramatic play area and explore-it-corner. In these centers kids get to work with peers to build, create, play, and explore, encouraging learning in a multitude of ways. The materials in these centers change monthly. Our sensory table is out almost everyday, and may be filled with anything from sand to water, shaving cream to pudding. Our classroom includes an outdoor learning space that will extend activities outside. This space will be used in a variety of ways throughout our day, including center time opportunities to further explore our themes with outdoor building, art, and group activities. Snack is included as a center and is a choice. Kids wash their hands, find their name tag, and sit down at our snack table. When they finish they clear their spot and go back to exploring our room.

**Letter of the Week** 10:45-10:55/2:00-2:10
We introduce a new letter each week. The letters are introduced by their shape, the sounds they make, and three things that begin with that letter. We practice drawing the letters with our ‘magic fingers’ on the rug, and say the sound multiple times. Our goal is not mastery of the alphabet, but to introduce the kids to the idea that print has meaning, an important step in the early reading process. We also read a story that features the week’s letter in the title.

**Closing** 10:55-11:00/2:10-2:15
We talk about our day and sing our ‘Good-bye’ song. We will open the door to invite in our parents. Children all need to be signed out, and cubbies should be checked everyday for projects and information.
Building Blocks
All the Extra Stuff you Need to Know!

**Snack Time**
Preschoolers are constantly moving and need healthy snacks to keep up with all they try and do! Parents are asked to sign up each month to provide our class with snacks. Sign ups are located at the parent information counter in the classroom. There will be special sign ups for party days and special events.

**Music and Cooking Days**
Every Friday we will enjoy making music or cooking up special treats! Ms. Larissa enjoys sharing her love of all things musical with the kids. We will listen to many different kinds of music, often using drawing, dancing, or books to accompany our sounds. We also use instruments to make music of our own! Ms. Beth will be using her love of cooking to help the kids explore the science of food and baking! We will mix, stir, chop, and bake, our way through lessons. Fridays quickly become favorite days for everyone!

**Building Block Book Bags**
Beginning in October, we will send our ‘book bag’ home with one child each Monday. The bag consists of a book for you and your child to enjoy together, an animal friend to play with, and a notebook to draw a picture. On Wednesday, your child will be given time to share their picture and tell the class about their favorite adventures with the book bag!

**Coats and such...**
Colorado is known for its ever-changing weather! We do try and go outside every day, so please dress your child appropriately. Coats, jackets, gloves, hats, etc., should all be clearly labeled with your child’s name. Coats should be hung in your child’s cubby, and hats and mittens can be stored inside coat pockets or sleeves.

**Parent Communication**
Each month we will provide a newsletter with highlights of our upcoming themes and activities. There will be a calendar that families can use as conversation starters as you talk with your child about their day, and to act as reminders for special activities and days off from school. Teachers are available at the beginning of class and after pick up for quick check ins and questions. If you have questions or concerns that require a more in depth conversation, please ask! Teachers will work to schedule a meeting time outside of school hours.