Welcome to Building Blocks and Stepping Stones! We are excited to see everyone at the Meet the Teachers on September 3rd and start school on September 4th. At this point, we do still have openings in our 11:30 Building Blocks and Stepping Stones classes which we hope to fill. Our preschool families are a great source of marketing for us so, if you know any families looking for preschool, please let them know that we have afternoon openings! Let’s start by introducing ourselves.

Lana Fauver (Miss Lana) | Stepping Stones Teacher and Preschool Director
I have been a teacher and director in the early learning programs (Building Blocks and Stepping Stones) at the Louisville Recreation Center for 19+ years and have enjoyed the children, families and the community connections. I have also been a teacher/substitute teacher in the Twooodles program since its inception and have been actively involved in the Summer Day Camp at the center as well. My husband and I have lived in Louisville since 1992 and raised three children here. I have a Bachelor’s Degree from CU Boulder, have held an elementary teaching license and currently hold a Colorado Preschool Director License. I love living and working in Louisville! When not teaching I enjoy reading, cooking and my grand puppies.

Kristen Porter (Miss Kristen) | Stepping Stones Teacher
I live in Louisville with my husband, and we have raised three children in this community. I attended CU Boulder where I received a Bachelor's Degree and a teaching license in Elementary Education. I have been teaching children for 20 years and have always found joy in working with children and families. I have had the pleasure of teaching at the Louisville Recreation in the early childhood program for the last 10 years. I am currently a Stepping Stones teacher, as well as a reading tutor when I’m not teaching Stepping Stones. Things that I enjoy when I’m not working with kids is riding my bike, hiking, skiing and hanging out with my family and friends!

Larissa Hoffman (Miss Larissa) | Building Blocks Teacher
I have worked as a teacher here at the Louisville Recreation Center for 17 years, currently as a teacher in the Building Blocks classroom and the Twooodles program. I also lead a variety of summer classes at the Louisville Recreation Center for kids ages 2-9 and lead crafts for the Summer Day Camp. I earned my degree in Music Education from Ft. Lewis College, and have completed additional early childhood education courses through Front Range Community College over the last several years. I have lived in Boulder County since I was in high school, and have enjoyed raising my 3 children surrounded by all this community has to offer. Outside of teaching I enjoy trivia and camping!

Rebecca St Ores (Miss Rebecca) | Building Blocks Teacher
I have lived in Louisville for the past 7 years with my husband and two children. I know firsthand how valuable the early learning program is here at the Louisville Rec Center since both of my children have been students (and loved it!). I am so excited to be a part of the program. I have a Bachelor’s Degree from CU Boulder where I took classes in the School of Education department. I feel very fortunate to work in my own community in a profession where I can form relationships and guide children at such an important stage of development. I look forward to getting to know each of the students and fostering a positive early learning experience to help build a solid foundation for their future successes. In my spare time, I enjoy camping with my family, reading and taking photographs.

Mandy Perera (Miss Mandy) | Recreation Supervisor, Youth & Teen Activities
I am from a small town in New England called Rockport, which is an artist/lobstering community and grew up in the hospitality business. I have worked at the Louisville Recreation Center for 20 years. My husband and I have two boys and love the many great opportunities in Colorado for families. I feel fortunate to work with an amazing group of coworkers who are passionate about their work and care deeply for our youth and community. I have a BS in Recreation Management and I’m certified as an Early Childhood Educator, however, you will mostly find me behind the scenes of preschool, supporting our staff and families, making sure all our programs for youth are running smooth. Some of my favorite pastimes are reading, traveling, and doing anything outdoors with my family, friends or solo!
Meet the Teachers, Tuesday, September 3 | 12-12:45 pm for 8:15am class and 1-1:45pm for 11:30am class

Students and parents, please join us to meet the teachers and your fellow classmates as well as see the classroom and get ready for the upcoming school year. Please bring a full change of clothes in a gallon zip lock bag labeled with your child’s first and last name for teachers to keep in the classroom in case of any needed changes. Please make arrangements for any siblings not enrolled in preschool as this is just for enrolled students and parent. Thanks for your understanding.

Communication between Teachers and Parents
We communicate with parents in several different ways over the course of the school year.

Classroom Newsletters ~ Each classroom has a monthly newsletter which is e-mailed and posted one our webpage on or before the beginning of each month. This newsletter contains basic information on past and upcoming projects, dates of special activities, dates of special events (sometimes requiring that children bring specific items from home on given dates), as well as general classroom information of interest to parents.

Program Newsletter ~ We send home a program newsletter every other month; in September, November, January and March. This newsletter has general program information, reminders and updates. It also includes Scholastic Book Club information.

Student Drop Off / Pick Up ~ We have the pleasure of seeing parents at both drop off and pick up daily. Although our main focus during this time is transitioning the children, we are happy to speak briefly with parents and confirm information, answer questions and receive or provide feedback.

Parent – Teacher Conference ~ We schedule parent – teacher conferences in February of each school year and encourage every family to participate. In addition to that, if you have any specific need or pressing issue that you feel warrants more meeting time than just a quick exchange at drop off/pick up, we are happy to schedule time to meet with you (generally over our lunch hour 11:00-11:30).

Drop Off and Pick Up (Sign in / out)
When dropping your child off at school, please sign them in and have them wash their hands. Apply sunscreen before dropping off your student. Please accompany them into the classroom and make sure teachers have greeted them and know that they are there. Children are released to parents in the classrooms only after the parent has signed them out. Please remember that anyone who is going to pick up your child must be listed on your Student Information Form. Drop off at and pick up from Preschool can be a busy, hectic time, but we ask that you are on time for pick up as we have limited time for set up/clean up, lunch and faculty interaction. Thanks for your cooperation!

Building Blocks and Stepping Stones Classrooms
Because our rooms are used by other programs after hours, our teachers set up and break down the classrooms daily. This process is pretty involved and we have systems in place to make the process efficient. Our day is scheduled fairly tightly with 15 minutes for set up before greeting children and 15 minutes for break down/clean up after saying goodbye to students and a half hour break between classes to clean up/set up/eat lunch and meet with colleagues. We require parents to drop off/pick up children promptly at set times. Teachers work hard to open doors promptly for both drop off and pick up.

Getting messy and staying active at Preschool
We do lots of messy, sensory activities during the preschool day! We make every effort to minimize staining clothing, but want the children to explore freely and often that means getting dirty! We do use washable paints and markers whenever possible. We encourage parents to dress their children in play clothes (and not their best/favorite outfits) for preschool with the exception of special days!

In addition to that, we do many active games and have "recess" in the gym or on the playground. We find that children do better when they wear Tennis Shoe type shoes to school.

Process versus Product
Your preschooler will be exposed to a wide variety of materials and encouraged to explore, make discoveries and express him/herself. Most experiences will be open ended, with no particular finished product. Don’t be alarmed if your children’s’ work isn’t representational (a person looks like a person) during this time of exploring and experimenting...they are communicating and expressing ideas about the world around them in their own way! We are planning a Spring Art Show and “reserve the right :)” to hold onto children’s work for this event. We hope your child will enjoy this way of valuing their creativity.

Snacks
Although we do ask families to provide snacks, snack is not a focus or key component to our preschool program; we also prefer that you do not bring in juice as we serve water with snack and throughout the day. Your preschooler does not need to bring a water bottle to class. Please sign up to bring snack in for your child’s class. Please see the Snack Sheet for either Building Blocks or Stepping Stones for more information. Health Department and Licensing regulations have required us to make some restrictions.
Cubbies and Personal Belongings
The children’s cubbies are located in the youth welcome area just outside the classrooms and are labeled with a morning and afternoon student’s name. These cubbies are used for parent-family communication and for the children’s daily take-home activities. Other clearly labeled personal items such as coats and hats should be kept in the larger "lockers". Please do not leave items after class they are used by other students and programs.

Scholastic Book Order
Scholastic Book Orders are a great opportunity for families to build their children’s personal libraries while also helping our program build and maintain ours! When you order great children’s literature on a wide variety of subjects and for every interest and low special prices, we receive points that allow us to order books too! It is a win – win! If you choose to purchase books as gifts, please write “GIFTS” on your order form and we will deliver them to you discretely instead of putting them in cubbies! If you order on-line, just let Lana know that you have ordered gifts. September’s order is due Wednesday, Sept 18. October book order is due Monday, October 9.

Order online at www.scholastic.com/bookclubs with the activation code GW3BG

Class Openings
We have room for additional students in the 11:30am—2:15 pm Stepping Stones Class (ages 4-5 by 9/30/19) and one spot currently in the 11:30-2:15pm Building Blocks Class (age 3 by 9/30/19).

Our preschool families our one of our strongest program promoters! If you know any families looking for preschool, please let them know that we have afternoon openings and to contact Mandy Perera, Recreation Supervisor for more information., 303-335-4902, mandyp@louisvilleco.gov

Upcoming Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 3</td>
<td>Meet the Teachers 12:00-12:45 for the 8:15 class and 1:00-1:45 for the 11:30 class</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Sept 4</td>
<td>First Day of Preschool</td>
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<td>Monday, Sept 16</td>
<td>No School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 18</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Order Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 9</td>
<td>Individual and Class Picture Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 14</td>
<td>No School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 9</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Order Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 30</td>
<td>Class Halloween Celebrations</td>
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Upcoming Special Events

Letters from Santa
Your child is sure to enjoy a letter written especially for them from Santa! Please see page 35 of the current Recreation Catalog for the form and more information. Registration deadline is Tuesday, November 5 in order to get the letters created and mailed in time.

Pancakes for Dinner with Santa, Thursday, December 12, 6-7:30 pm
Live music, a pancake dinner prepared in front of your eyes, and time to visit with Santa and his Elves, a keepsake ornament and other fun surprises. Kids, wear your PJs. All participants ages 1 to 100 must register in advance. This event sells out every year, so don’t delay. Registration currently in progress.
Registration Code: 32024-1, $12 Louisville Residents/$15 Non-Residents

Enrichment Classes
Did you know the Louisville Recreation & Senior Center and our contractors offers a wide variety of classes for your youth?

- Swimming— all ages
- Sign Language— Ages 0-5
- Yoga, Preschool & Elementary
- Spanish, Ages 3-6
- Story Quest, Ages 3-5
- Drawing, Preschool & Elementary
- Dalcroze, Ages 4-7
- BAMM, Ages 4-8
- Sports Action, Ages 4-6

Check out our website or the Fall Catalog for more information!