Peak K

"Rise and Shine!"

Program Description

The Peak K program is a supplement to the ½ day kindergarten experience. The program is a concentrated learning time based on the Montessori method of early childhood instruction, "multiple intelligence" theory, and the belief that the building blocks of all future learning are developed early in the child's educational experience.

Activities/Process

This is an "after school" program designed for a small group. Each week the instructor chooses a theme and the students choose activities which are based on that theme. The themes, lessons and activities are designed to develop the students' skills in the following areas:

- Practical life
- Sensorial
- Language
- Mathematics
- Culture

This program enhances the kindergarten experience by making clear connections between student learning and life. This serves to enhance their performance and fulfillment in the traditional classroom

Outcomes

- Develop basic literacy and numeracy understanding
- Inspire independence in children's learning
- Gain exposure to Montessori materials and their use
- Build life skills

Evaluation

Evaluation of children's progress is ongoing and informal. Continual observation of the child is the primary form of assessment. Regular conversations with parents or caregivers will be the main way in which we communicate regarding each child's development. Individual conferences can be scheduled as needed.

Schedule

Program offered Tuesdays and Thursdays following CBCS Schedule.

For students attending AM kindergarten: 11:45AM – 3:30PM

Cost and Participants

One-Time Enrollment Fee: $50
Program Fee: $28/Day
Capacity: 6 children/Day

To register, please contact Brian Krill at 209-1006 or 349-2830

Staff

MEET JEN HILLEBRANDT

Jen has helped to design the Montessori Program and will be facilitating other early childhood education programming for Peak.

Through early experiences with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), adventures at the Colorado College, and a degree in Sociology, Jen Hillebrandt discovered that she was meant to be a teacher, but not in the traditional sense. "Experiential Education" would become a life-long pursuit.

Once she discovered this "calling", she attended the **University of Colorado at Boulder** to further her studies, obtaining a **Colorado Teaching License as well as a Master's Degree in Elementary Education, with emphasis in bilingual and special education.** Later, Jen traveled to Costa Rica to hone her Spanish language skills in an immersion program, as she found herself in Leadville, Colorado, teaching an elementary class of students with varying levels of English proficiency. She strongly believes in the benefits of immersion studies, and that language and culture are intricately linked.

In 2001, Jen finally made her way to Crested Butte, after dreaming about calling it home for years. Here, she has discovered the joys and challenges of motherhood, and gained new insights into **early childhood development and education**. Jen started **a state licensed in-home preschool/daycare**, simultaneously obtaining training and **certification as a Montessori Primary teacher** (focusing on children aged 3-6 years).

In all her various manifestations as an educator, Jen has realized her strengths and passions lie in **early childhood education**, as well as **literacy for all ages**. She firmly believes in the benefits of Montessori education, Multiple Intelligences theory (which allows for eight ways to be "smart" and to learn), and finally, time spent problem-solving in the outdoors and developing a relationship with our natural world. She is so grateful to have the opportunity to share these passions with others, as part of the Peak team.

Jen has also served as the Director of Paradise Place Pre-school, and currently works at the Crested Butte Public Library.