

¡Bienvenidos! / Welcome!

Parents,

Welcome to Little Big Minds – Uptown. My name is Maria Hitt and I am the Uptown campus Director. I have been a part of the Little Big Minds family for almost 4 years, the past 6 months I have been the AD here at Uptown and I am now very proud and excited to take the lead as Director.

I am grateful for the active, compassionate and engaged community of parents and children we have here and will work to continue to promote and nurture our culture of hands-on / minds-on learning.

As an early childhood educator, I am passionate about the importance of quality bilingual education, and I believe Little Big Minds represents the best of the best in inquiry-based early learning. My goal is to continue to work with you to carry on the mission and philosophy of Little Big Minds Preschool to create magical experiences for each of your children.

We have exciting things planned in the year ahead. These pages provide an overview of what to expect before the first day of school. I would like to formally invite each of you to attend Orientation Night on Thursday, August 3rd. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our curriculum, policies, and procedures and to meet your child's teachers (parents only). Children can meet their teacher and see their classroom at Open House on August 4th – this is a fun event for the whole family before the first day of school on August 7.

Let's get ready to grow minds together. It's going to be a great year!

Maria Hitt
Director | Uptown Campus

Education is not the learning of facts but the training of the mind to think. - Albert Einstein



Back to School - Important Dates

Aug 3: Orientation Night (Adult only)

4:30pm-5:30pm
Morado, Naranja, Aguamarina & Verde

5:30-6:30pm
Azul, Rojo, Amarillo, Gris & Arcoíris

Aug 4: Open House (families)
9am-11am

Aug 7: 1st Day of School

Oct 28: LBM Unity Day

Oct 9-13: Fall Break

Dec 25- Jan 5: Winter Break

Mar 11-15: Spring Break

May 23: Last Day of School



Hands On Minds On

Our Community

Volunteer Opportunities

There will be endless opportunities for you and other parents to lend a helping hand throughout the school year. The following is a list of just some of the classroom, PTO and campus volunteer opportunities that help shape the culture of our preschool community.

- **Classroom Coordinator:** Assist with classroom events and serve as parent liaison.
- **Library Volunteer:** Go to library once a month to check out theme-based books for classroom.
- **Playdough Volunteer:** Make playdough for the classroom once a month.
- **PTO Board or Committee:** Community events (movie night, mixer, family night, etc.) fundraisers and FUN-raisers!

You will have the opportunity to sign up for these positions at the Meet the Teacher or Open House.

Be a knowledge Partner

We believe that children learn best through authentic experiences. If we are learning about bees, for example, we think a beekeeper just might have the answers to some of our little BIG minds' most pressing questions.

This method of learning is so powerful that we seek out area experts for all units of study. This year our units will include community, desert and desert animals, weather, light, sound, transportation, our bodies, plants and much more. Additionally, we always embrace a country, culture and value so, the opportunities for shared expertise are vast.

If you or someone you know has specific knowledge in one of our unit topics, we would love to hear from you! Children are curious and they want to know about your profession, the wonders of your heritage, or your unique knowledge or talent (ie...astronomy, librarian, doctor, guitarist, arborist, bee keeper, gardener).

Please contact me or your child's teacher to schedule a visit. We are always happy to make time for authentic learning experiences and our children love special visitors.



Afterschool Activities

All Enrichment classes are provided by independent contractors (with the exception of LBM Aftercare). Days and times listed below are tentative. Registration forms for all programs will be sent home in mid-August.

Monday- Ballet (1:15-2:00 | ages 3 to 5)

Wednesday - Flamenco (1:15 - 2:00 | ages 3 to 5)

Wednesday- Soccer Program (1:15-2:00 pm)

LITTLE BIG MINDS | PRESCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

Preschool is a place to get our hands dirty and feel free to explore. As you can imagine, our students go through a LOT of supplies every week. Please contribute a few things to help us start the new school year.

Please label the following items with your child's first and last name:

- 1 family photo (for the Family Tree in the classroom)
- 1 carnet size photo of your child- For the office
- 2 change of clothing Ziplock bag labeled with first & last name.
- 1 water bottle labeled (to bring to school each day- labeled with first & last name)
- One 2-inch white binder
- 1 watercolor notebook (9x12 inches)
- 1 Child-large sized used t-shirt to be used as smocks for art.

These items do not need to be labeled:

- 1 box of Kleenex.
- 1 box Ziploc® gallon-size storage bags
- 1 box of plastic ware (spoons and forks)
- 1 package of 200 paper plates
- 3 rolls paper towels
- 1 pack Baby wipes Unscented
- 4 Glue sticks

Purple, Orange and Aquamarine Classrooms Only:

- Box of **short** chalk – any color
- Diapers (if and as needed-**labeled with first and last name**)
- 1 package of wipes (if and as needed-**labeled with first and last name**)
- READY 2 LEARN Doodle Dabbers Dot Markers - Set of 6 Washable Colors - **Non-Toxic - Specially Designed Toddler Grip**

Green, Blue, Red, Yellow, Gray & Rainbow Classrooms Only:

- **Short** colored pencils
- 8PCS Colored Masking Tape - Colors Rolls, Kids Art Supplies
- 1 box of **short** Crayola Ultra Clean Washable Markers Broad Line
- 1 box of **short** markers- all colors

Thank you for helping us make our classrooms magical!
¡Gracias!



Authentic Material Wish List

Sometimes repurposed or recycled items are the most fun. If you have any of the following items laying around at home, bring them to school and we'll put them to work growing bigger minds:

magazines · cookbooks · fabric · nuts · bolts · screws · golf tees · ribbon · yarn · feathers · costume jewelry · calculators kitchen utensils · strainers corks · containers ·

SAFETY & SECURITY

School safety is a primary concern for all parents and educators. At Little Big Minds, we implement a variety of security measures to ensure a secure

Front Office Entry

All families must enter through the main entrance. The campus is secure and you will need to use the pin number to gain entry.

Only adults listed on the pre-authorized pick up / drop off list will be permitted access. Please do not share the PIN number. This is for registered families only.

ProCare Connect

The Arizona Department of Health Services requires that all students be checked in and out daily and Little Big Minds is bound by these licensing requirements.

Prior to the first week of school, you will receive an invitation to register for Procare Connect. Please download the App at your earliest convenience and use your unique code to register.

Procare Connect will be used for all sign-in/out activities as well as all classroom pictures and communication.

Note: Only Parents/Guardians will receive a registration code. All other adults authorized for pick-up must sign in/out on the classroom iPad.

As a reminder, all children must be signed in and out every day. Not signing children out will result in extra hours charges.



Drop Off Location

Children enrolled in the Academic Day Program (9am to 1pm) should be dropped off and picked up from their homeroom classroom. Please do not drop off before 8:45am.

We open at 7am. Children registered for **Before Care** must be signed in PRIOR to drop off.

All belongings must be dropped off in the child's homeroom classroom prior to drop off.

Prior to 8am, please drop children off in:

Salón Morado: Salón Morado & Naranja

Salón Aguamarina: Salón Aguamarina & Verde

Salón Amarillo: Salón Azul, Rojo & Amarillo

Salón Arcoíris: Salón Gris & Arcoíris

Homeroom teachers will pick children up from their before-care classroom at 8am.

Pick Up Location

After 3 pm: Pick your child up as follows:

Salón Morado: Salón Morado & Naranja

Salón Aguamarina: Salón Aguamarina & Verde

Salón Amarillo: Salón Azul, Rojo & Amarillo

Salón Arcoíris: Salón Gris & Arcoíris

After 4:30

Salones Morado, Naranja, Aguamarina & verde upstairs playground.

Salones Azul, Rojo, Amarillo, Gris & Arcoíris downstairs playground.

Our campus closes at 5:30pm. Additional charges will apply for late pick up. (\$1 per minute for every minute after 5:30pm – see parent handbook for more details).