

Dear Elephant Families:

Mr. Shannon is very excited for your child to join the Elephant herd! Preschool is a time for your young one to blossom, grow, and explore! The Elephant classroom will provide your child with a play-based education, in a mixed age classroom, which will foster social and emotional growth, reinforce language and communication skills, and expand fine- and gross-motor development. We offer children a chance to explore and test their world through an emergent-style curriculum; focused, constructive play is honored as a means of investigation and self-discovery. Children are encouraged to question the world around them and are guided through the process of discovering their own answers. Learning alongside both older and younger peers will provide your child with the opportunity to interact with a wider social and developmental grouping to learn from and teach others. We are excited for your young Elephant to join the open savanna that is our classroom and explore the world with us! We look forward to getting to know your children on a personal level, and understanding the ways that your child learns best as they grow here at Annette's.

Mr. Shannon is a native of Vermont who grew up living at, various times, on both coasts of the United States and in a few places in between due to his mother's career in the US Navy. While attending Champlain College Shannon began working at YMCA afterschool programs and summer camps in the Burlington area. Soon he decided that this was his life's calling. Two decades of working with children eventually lead him to Annette's Preschool and Clubhouse where he is now a full time teacher and assistant director of school age programming, working with both school age and preschool children. His interests and skills are varied and always evolving. In the past he has provided preschool and adult enrichment classes ranging from art and athletics to science and cooking.

Shannon received an Associates Degree from CCV with a focus on Human and Social Services in 1996 before attending, and graduating from the Utah College of Massage Therapy in 1997. Currently he is working toward a Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education through the Vermont State College system. 2016 will mark 20 years of marriage for Shannon and his wife Donna. Together they have one 13 year- old daughter and one cat. They reside in Middlebury. When not working,

Shannon strives to spend as much time as possible with his family and their community.

Mr. Shannon provides a positive and respectful classroom community and encourages natural curiosity. Please sign up for our blog at elephants.annettespreschool.com where we post often about our investigations. Below are the classroom expectations to guide you in getting settled!

Upon arrival your child should wash their hands. Our goal is to keep everyone healthy!

- Sign your child in and out daily on our classroom clipboard. This is required by the state of Vermont and ensures your child's safety at all times of the day while we are responsible for the care of your child.
- We will continue to use indoor and outdoor shoes in the Elephant classroom. Please keep the indoor shoes at Annette's (sturdy slippers are fine!) so that they are always available and handy when your child arrives.
- We encourage healthy choices such as yogurt, veggies/fruit and protein for our mid-morning snack; please save the gummies, puddings and chips for home.
- Remember we are a **Nut Free** school! This includes snacks that are labeled made in same factory or may contain nuts, including tree nuts. Please see www.snacksafely.org for more information.
- Kids enjoy sharing interest and toys from home, however, toys do get misplaced and occasionally broken in a preschool class. Please don't allow your child to bring any toy that they are not comfortable with losing (accidents happen with Elephants in the room).

- Weather appropriate clothing is a must for the Elephants, as is extra clothing. Please be aware any Elephant without extra clothing who is in need of them, will have a parent called to supply some or given the “extras” that we have.

For a more detailed class schedule please see the attached **Daily Schedule**.

Our classroom is a very open environment. If you ever wish to come and watch your child at play, or wish to come play for a while yourself, please let one of us know and feel free to join us! We would love to have you! We try very hard to keep the lines of communication open in the form of letters, e-mail, phone calls, and face-to-face interaction. We hope that you will all feel comfortable approaching us for anything you may need, or any concerns you may have.

Please make sure to check the Parent Folders every day for paperwork from your child, the teachers, or the Director. We are available for questions and comments during our classroom hours on 482-2525 where you can leave a message in the office, on our voicemail or by email: elephants@annettespreschool.com. If you choose to leave a voice message, it will go directly to this email. Teachers check email using our classroom tablet on breaks in the day. Once again, welcome to our family! We are very excited to get to know you and your child and start a new journey with all of you!

Sincerely,
Mr. Shannon

Elephant Class Daily Schedule!

(We are always flexible depending on the mood of the group and the type of activity or theme we are working on!)

8:50-9:10 Drop off in the Elephant classroom



- 9:10-9:30 – Free investigation time
- 9:30-10:00 – Morning meeting
- 10:00-10:30 – Theme investigation time
- 10:30-11:10 – Outside play or indoor structured and free play options
- 11:10-11:30 – Hand washing and snack time
- 11:30-11:55 – Art and music
- 11:55-12:10 – Read aloud stories
- 12:10 - Parent pick up



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