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thinkery

Austin, TX

Est. 1983
As Austin Children’s Museum

2013
Opened as Thinkery
New Building, New Brand
38,000 sq ft
Imaginative Play with a sprinkle of STEAM

STEAM with a sprinkle of Imaginative Play
Thinkery’s Mission

To create innovative learning experiences that equip and inspire the next generation of creative problem solvers.

Joyful learning through STEAM-driven play.

- Play-based
- Inquiry-rich
- STEAM-focused
  (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math)
Why a Preschool at Thinkery?

• Provide a unique active learning environment to support the development of your child’s school readiness skills.

• Nurture a diverse and inclusive generation of young children.

• Utilize research partnerships to ensure that each child benefits from best practices in play-based, STEAM early learning.

• Contribute to and disseminate best practices in play-based STEAM early learning to the broader community through educator professional development and community partnerships.
Educational Approach

• **Play is learning**
  - Thinkery uses the process of inquiry to build STEAM knowledge, promote scientific reasoning to cultivate curiosity.

• **Children learn best alongside caring, responsive adults**
  - We support them through an emergent approach and low teacher-student ratios.
  - Safe and open environment to practice and develop social-emotional skills.

• **Engagement and collaboration with our community are vital to our success**
  - Research-based, lab school environment focused on improving kindergarten readiness.

• **We must always approach learning in new and innovative ways.**
  - Iterate learning experiences thought incorporation of research findings and reflective practices.

• **Children deserve stimulating, sophisticated, well-designed spaces and experiences.**
  - Exhibit exploration central to the learning experience.
Educational Approach

We believe that play-based, hands-on, STEAM learning experiences through inquiry are a powerful way for children to develop problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and curiosity about the world around them.
Kindergarten Readiness Skills

- Cognitive & Math Skills
- Language & Literacy Skills
- Physical Health & Motor Skills
- Social-Emotional Development

Approaches to Learning i.e. initiative & curiosity, engagement & persistence
Educational Approach

6 C's

• Collaboration
• Communication
• Creativity
• Critical Thinking
• Compassion
• Confidence
Emergent Approach

- Informed by educational theorists Dewey, Piaget, and Vygotsky.
- Activities are guided by children’s interests, skills, and needs.
- Teachers use reflective practice.
Meet our Partners

Cristine Legare, PhD
Associate Professor and the Director of the Evolution, Variation, and Ontogeny of Learning Laboratory (EVO Learn Lab)
- Advise on curriculum design
- Co-create teacher & student assessments
- Conduct research projects

Amy Bryan, PhD
Director, Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory, Associate Professor of Practice, Human Development and Family Sciences
- Advise on curriculum design
- Co-create teacher & student assessments
Thinkery Connect

Museum-university research partnership to enhance parent-child interaction and promote children’s learning.

Dr. Afshan Kamrudin
Museum Researcher, Thinkery

Research Formats
• Teacher & Student Assessments
• Observation Studies

Community Dissemination
• Early Childhood Educator Professional Development
• Community Partnerships
  • Success by 6: United Way for Greater Austin:
  • E3 Alliance
Who We Serve

Curious Little Thinkers Ages 3 & 4
Curious Little Thinkers

Must be:
Ages 3 or 4
by September 1

Potty trained
Up to date on vaccines and health screenings
Ratios & Class Sizes

- Target Fall enrollment: 32 students
- Potential Winter enrollment: 14 additional students in a third classroom
- 16 students to 2 teachers
- 1 Lead Teacher & 1 Assistant Teacher
School Day

8am-3pm

Extended Care Until 5:30pm
- Optional
- Included with Tuition
Learning Environment

Classrooms

Plus....
Learning Environment

Outdoor Space

Plus....
Thinkery Exhibits
Outdoor Exhibits & Park
Meet our Lead Teachers

Becca Drew Ramsey
• MFA, University of Texas Austin
• Specializes in arts integration and STEAM education for early learners
• Plays the ukulele and great storyteller

Ashley Hill
• BA, Texas State University
• Specializes in reflective practices and mentorship for STEAM educators
• Singer & song writer with an amazing voice
Tuition & Fees

Little Thinkers Preschool

Tuition
- $1,195 per month
- Includes Thinkery Family Membership
- Due 1st of the month
- Autopayment

Registration Fee
- $100
- Nonrefundable

Enrollment Fee
- $150
- Nonrefundable

Supply Fee
- $100
- Annual
Financial Assistance

Current 2020-2021 School Year:
• A select number of spaces will be held for need-based financial assistance applicants.
• Indicate your interest in financial assistance on the registration form.

Future Years:
Actively seeking support to offer financial subsidies for 50% of our enrollment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Routine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Drop Off &amp; Greetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Outdoor Play/Gallery Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Handwashing &amp; AM Snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Music &amp; Motor Skills/Story Time/Gallery Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Handwashing &amp; Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Nap/Rest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Start to wake up - Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Centers/Small Group/Gallery Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Handwashing &amp; PM Snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>End of school day – pick up; Centers for Extended Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Outdoor Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>End of day – pick up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Day Things To Know

Parents/caregivers provide:
• 2 daily snacks and lunch
• Reusable water bottle
• Bedding for nap mats
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>First Day of School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25 – 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>Holiday Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21 – January 6</td>
<td>Winter Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>MLK Jr. Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15-19</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Student Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Graduation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>First Day of Summer Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Independence Day (observed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Last Day of Summer Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2 – 13</td>
<td>Summer Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health & Safety Protocols

- Opening plan includes additional health and safety protocols
- Informed by:
  - CDC guidelines
  - Direct collaboration with Austin Public Health
  - American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations
- Drawn from summer camp experience
- Update as conditions change
Drop off/Pick up & Health Screening at Entry

- All student drop off and pick up will take place outside of the museum.
- No caregivers are permitted in the building.
- Daily temperature checks and health screenings for all students and Thinkery staff.
- Any student showing signs of illness will be separated and caregivers will be called for pick up.
Face Masks & Handwashing

• All Thinkery staff will be required to wear face masks.
• Preschool students will be required to wear face masks to the extent possible.
• Handwashing will be required many times throughout the day, including arrival to the classroom, after transitions, bathroom visits, and before/after eating.
Cleaning & Disinfecting Procedures

• Increased disinfecting of classrooms, nap mats, equipment and surfaces, especially doorknobs, high-touch surfaces, exhibits, and restrooms.
• Nap mat bedding laundered daily.
• Nightly deep cleaning.
• Weekly electrostatic disinfection.
• HVAC system using fresh air circulation.
• Each student will have their own set of non-consumables (scissors, tape, etc...).
Social Distancing Measures

• Preschool groups will be held in separate classrooms.
• Classrooms will not be combined or interact throughout the day.
• Social distancing within groups implemented to the degree possible.
• Exhibit time will be scheduled to minimize public interaction.
• Prepared to reduced class sizes if mandated by State or Local health authorities.
Registration & Admissions

Registration Begins
Friday, July 10, 2020

Complete & Submit
Sunday, July 19
Registration Fee: $100

Lottery Selection

Notification
Week of July 27, 2020

Accept
Within 24 Hours
Enrollment Fee: $150
Selection Process & Waitlist

Lottery Selection Process
- Round 1: Thinkery members (50% of spots)
- Round 2: General public + unselected Thinkery members (50% of spots)
- Not selected: Added to waitlist on first-come, first-served basis

Notification
- Email notifications sent week of July 27, 2020

Acceptance
- 24 hours to accept by paying enrollment fee
- After 24 hours, if payment not received spot will go to next student on the waitlist

First Day of School
- September 8, 2020

Year 2: Waitlist Selection Process
Register at
(in English or Español):
jovial.org/thinkery/register

Website:
thinkeryaustin.org/preschool/

Email:
preschool@thinkeryaustin.org
Thank You!