



Little Lamb Preschool - Keener Kids, Inc.

2025-2026

Family Information Packet

1005 E. Wheat Road
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Facebook: [littlelambpreschoolkeenerkids](https://www.facebook.com/littlelambpreschoolkeenerkids)

Website: www.littlelambps.com

Free Educational Day: 8:10 am – 2:10 pm

Drop Off: 8:10-8:20am Pick Up: 2:00-2:10pm

Early Dismissal Days: 12:10pm

Vineland District determines the times.

Wrap: Before & After Care (Fee applies)

Before Care: 7:15am – 8:10am

After Care: 2:10pm-3:30pm **or** 2:10pm-4:30pm

We value our partnership with the Vineland Public School District and the Gateway Community Action Agency.



Design by: Yana Vitz





Together Bringing Up a Keener Generation/ Little Lamb Preschool Philosophy

Thank you for looking into our center. Little Lamb's exclusive educational programs provide unlimited opportunities for the total child. Our age-appropriate programs are oriented toward the development of the child's social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs. Four essential facets are combined to form Little Lamb's quality educational programs.

Well trained, committed, caring teachers and assistants.

- Safe, healthy, and developmentally sound environment.
- Age-appropriate learning activities from a curriculum that supports children's exploration.
- Our centers commitment to meet national accreditation standards.
- Received the highest rating by NJ state departments: Education, Human Services and Health

Our child-centered environment consists of classrooms which have been carefully designed and furnished to enhance the creative and developmental needs of young children. Classrooms are bright, happy, stimulating and designed to encourage children to explore and learn.

Each day provides a balanced schedule of activities, quiet, active, group, and individual participation is planned, along with opportunities for eating, resting, and outdoor play. Our programs are built upon the Vineland Public School district's "High Scope" curriculum. The "High Scope" Preschool Curriculum is an open framework based on Jean Piaget's constructive theory of child development. The curriculum bases the children's learning through:

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| • Creative Representation | • Classification |
| • Language / Literacy | • Number |
| • Initiative and Social Relations | • Seriation |
| • Movement | • Space |
| • Music | • Time |

Little Lamb believes children learn best through staff modeling expected behaviors in the classroom and allowing children to take on responsibility in their rooms such as setting the table for snack time, putting their classroom toys away and doing their class work on their own.

Personalized Learning For Diverse Learners

Little Lamb Preschool staff must know and understand how young children develop and learn, and apply knowledge to their everyday actions, reactions, plans and reflections. This is needed to meet the needs of diverse learners with a range of individual differences. These differences include students with disabilities, students who perform above grade level, culture, language/linguistic, family structure, and family values. Little Lamb staff will use adaptation, adult/peer involvement, additional support, family communication input, intervention plans, COR data and best practice techniques that help **all** students achieve higher levels in their various development domains.

Little Lamb recognizes the importance of informing families about what's going on in the school. Involving families in their children's preschool experience is vital. Little Lamb's calendar, Family Worker's newsletter and teacher's newsletter help keep families informed. Social media (i.e. FB, Thrillshare) are used to inform parents of the classroom and school activities. Teachers communicate directly using google classroom. Phone calls and face-to-face meetings are important and welcome.

As always, Little Lamb Preschool is committed towards excellence in early childhood. Thank you for inquiring about our school.

Sincerely, *Michael and Ruth Piatt*

Michel and Ruth Piatt-Sponsors/Owners

Academic Programs

The High Scope Experience

Little Lamb is implementing High Scope curriculum in all of our classrooms. High Scope's educational approach emphasizes child-initiated learning activities for preschool and elementary school children. The High Scope approach is an open framework of guidelines for the actions of adults and children open to, and supportive of their ideas. Classes have a consistent daily routine that emphasizes the plan-do-review sequence.

What this means is that while the classrooms have a set, scheduled routine for the day, the children have an active part in planning their day. The children are allowed to plan which center they would like to work at for the morning and what they are going to do there. The teachers will then assist any children who might need encouragement in carrying out their plan and afterwards they all review what they did during this part of their day.

High Scope curriculum provides the children with the opportunity to learn through what is called, active learning. Young children act on their innate desire to explore. They ask questions about people, materials, events; and ideas that arouse their curiosity; they solve problems that stand in the way of their goals; and they generate new strategies to try. Through active learning young children construct knowledge that helps them make sense of their world.

A consistent daily routine supports active learning. The routine enables young children to anticipate what happens next and gives them a great deal of control over what they do during each part of their preschool day. The High Scope daily routine includes the plan-do-review process, which enables children to express their intentions, carry them out, and reflect on what they have done.

Small-group time encourages children to explore and learn literacy, math and creative representation with new or familiar materials, that the teachers have selected based on their daily observations of the children's interest, the key experiences, and local events. During large group time both children and adults initiate music and movement activities, story re-enactments, group discussions, and cooperative play and projects

In conclusion, the High Scope curriculum exposes children to a world of wonder and discovery.

Within the High Scope curriculum there are teaching tools to ensure children are Kindergarten ready. The teaching tools the teachers use are SELA and PCMI. SELA is a teaching guideline that ensures children learn the basics of language and literacy components. PCMI is the teaching guidelines for mathematical concepts.

Teachers hold conferences several times a year with each parent/guardian to share the progress of what the child has learned. Portfolios are kept on each individual child, which hold work samples, pictures, and anecdotal notes on the child's progress. The portfolios are the evidence of your child's work.



Discipline Policy

Discipline should be viewed as an ongoing process for helping children develop competence, self-control and appropriate behavior. Children learn best through experience. We believe that teachers must lovingly guide and redirect the children to help them learn to cooperate with their peers. Also, we believe they need to have positive, educational experiences to encourage and enhance their growth and development while in our care. We feel that we can best accomplish this by knowing and following the principles in guiding children, listed below.

1. Our ratios are lower than what the state mandates. We believe in small class sizes. **Our preschool classrooms do not exceed 15 children.**
 1. 24 months 1:5
 2. 3 years 1: 7.5
 3. 4 years 1: 7.5
 4. 5 years 1: 8
 5. 6 years & older 1: 12
2. Know the development characteristics for the age that you teach. Many times, what teachers think is a discipline problem is actually age appropriate behavior. Be realistic about expectations and make your program fit children's developmental needs.
3. Know that children tell us things by their behavior. Become a good observer of children and be sensitive to their needs. If they are wiggly, let them move; if they are frustrated, adapt the activity or change the approach. In addition, work closely with parents to be aware of changes in home life that could be affecting children's behavior at school.
4. Prevent problems whenever possible.
5. Problem-solve and try new techniques. If what you are doing isn't working, then change

approaches. Think about what is causing the problem and how you can manipulate the variables to correct it, so children are more successful.

6. Separate children who don't get along. Staff: if certain children annoy each other, sit between them at circle time.
7. Discipline in private. Quietly pull children aside when you need to talk to them. Use "I" messages, rather than "you" messages. Instead of, "You never help pick up," try, "I need your help putting away all the toys." Rather than, "You can't talk to me like that," say, "My feelings get hurt when you talk to me that way." when there is a problem, ask the children what they think they could do to help you solve it.
8. Solve your own problems whenever possible. "Wait until your parents hear about this," or "I'm sending you to the principal," tells the child that you are not in control and can't handle the situation.
9. Take care of problems immediately. Staff, be aware of children who start bickering. Walk over immediately to help them solve the problem. It will have a much more lasting impression on them if the consequence immediately follows the action. Children live in the present and will forget all about an incident if you wait to handle it.
10. Don't expect perfection. Let little things go.
11. Keep a sense of humor. Some of the things children do really are funny and are not major offenses. Don't take yourself or them too seriously, and enjoy a good laugh when things get tense.
12. Empower children by giving them choices and responsibility. "I'm sure you can do it," and other words of encouragement will help them become independent and confident.

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13. Use a calm, quiet voice and keep your cool. Whistle a happy tune and pretend you are in control even if you're not. Please do not yell across the room at the children.
 14. Be consistent. Don't let children do something one day and then punish them for it the next.
 15. Use reason to explain rules and implications to children. For example, "it hurts if you hit someone." "We won't have time for a story if you don't clean up now," "you may run when we get outside."
 16. Don't end sentences with "Okay?" It sounds like you're doubting yourself or need the children's approval. Also, don't ask children if they want to do something if they really don't have a choice. If it's nap time, "Do you want to take a nap?" is not an option.
 17. Be specific with praise and criticism. "Good boy" or "bad girl" means little to children. "I like the way you shared the paints," or "Next time please remember to walk in the hall," are much more effective.
 18. Use many positive verbal cues to let children know what behaviors you expect. "Thank you for remembering to wash your hands before lunch." "I like the way John pushed in his chair." "Katrina is sitting down and showing me she's ready for our story." These examples all suggest appropriate behaviors for other children to imitate.
 19. Use power words like "now" and "it is time." For example, "I want you to sit down now," or "It is time to rest now."
 20. Be clear about what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Tell children what you expect ahead of time and be clear about what is not appropriate behavior. Staff: model appropriate behavior. Show the children how things should be done.

21. Set up the room in learning centers so children can be successful and work in smaller groups. Have a variety of activities and sufficient materials in each center.
22. Give children lots of opportunities to move and vent their energy. Let them wiggle, exercise, run outside, etc. Tell them they can squeeze play dough, or that they can kick a ball, run, or jump outside.
23. Respect children's differences. Accept their



different values, backgrounds and cultures as well as their unique ways of solving problems.

24. Give children unconditional love and support. Don't withdraw your love or base your attention on how they behave. Be patient. It takes a long time for children to grow up.
25. If a child still finds it hard to act appropriately, and we have tried all other methods, it might be necessary to help them find another activity. We use statements like, "This seems to be hard for you right now, can I help you find something else to do?" The child will be allowed to return to the group when he/she is ready. During the period away from the group the child will be in sight and hearing of the staff.
26. In situations of persistent unacceptable behavior, staff meet to discuss the unacceptable behavior and develop a program plan to meet the individual needs of the child in question. The child's behavior is recorded, dated and initialed by the staff members involved. The child's parents will be called for a conference to discuss this plan, and to enlist their cooperation and input. When necessary, the center's director will contact the

appropriate professionals for guidance. All action will be taken with the written approval of the parents.

27. Children shall not be subjected to any form of corporal punishment, including rough handling, shoving, hair pulling, ear pulling, shaking, slapping, kicking, biting, pinching, hitting, or spanking. Children shall not be subjected to any form of emotional abuse, including name calling, ostracism, shame, making derogatory remarks about the child or his family, or using language that threatens, humiliates or frightens the child. Toileting habits or lack thereof will not be a cause for punishment in any form. The withholding of food, clothing, or medical care will not be used as punishment. No physical or mechanical restraints of any kind will be used on a child.

28. We try to be as consistent as possible with our classroom rules so that the children know what is expected of them. We find that this helps the children and leads to their success

29. Always position yourself in the room, to see the greatest number of children. Don't lose sight of the whole room while working with a few children.

30. All staff are required by the state to review this policy.

31.

The following selected policies and procedures govern conditions that effect your child's welfare in the school. For more information on these and other policies that may relate to the care of your child, parents are encouraged to consult with the Central Office of Little Lamb Preschool. All policies are in accord with the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, as published by the State of NJ Department of Human Services Division of Youth and Family Services. Some the policies below only apply to children who are in our full day program, but take the time to read them all and familiarize yourself with all that Little Lamb has to offer.

1. State Licensed

Little Lamb Preschool is licensed by the State of New Jersey. The license is displayed in the school foyer, for your convenience. We are periodically inspected by the regulatory agencies to ensure the best for our child in the areas of health, safety and specific requirements mandated by State standards. We value our partnership with state regulatory agencies and support their commitment to quality childcare.

2. School Educational Hours, 8:10-2:10, (FREE): All children should be here by 8:10-8:20 am to start the school day. Pick up times are 2:00-2:10 pm. If your child is traveling by bus to and from Little Lamb, please check your child's bus slip to see the scheduled times for pick up and drop off. **Before Care is from 7:15-8:10 AM and after care: 2:10-3:30 or 2:10-4:30 PM. There is a tuition fee for this before and aftercare service. We do accept Rutgers subsidy, Inspira childcare pay, and other third party pay.**



3. Attendance

Showing up to school every day is important to your child's success and learning in preschool. Missing even one or two days every few weeks can make it harder for your child to develop early reading skills and missing school can develop a pattern for poor attendance that is hard to break. Being chronically late or absent can seriously impact students' academic growth in our preschool program.

Children are expected to attend school on a regular basis.

Please note on e- machine that they were sick if you are on Rutgers Subsidy (machine may be used in future).

4. Late Pick Up Fee:

Little Lamb late PM Wrap closes at 4:30pm sharp, if your child is not picked up by that time then you will be assessed a late pick up fee of \$10.00 (am) or \$12.00 (pm). Children solely in the free program must be picked up by 2:10 pm, unless in wrap.

Also, if your child is sent home on the bus and no one is there to get him/her off the bus, and they are brought back to Little Lamb, then you will be charged a late pick-up fee of \$5.00.

5.

6. Returned Checks:

If a check that Little Lamb deposits come back "Insufficient Funds", the school will charge a fee. This fee ranges from \$25.00 to \$35.00 and will be added to the families' bill. At this point the parent will be required to pay in cash or with credit card. All credit cards have a transaction fee applied to the payment.

6. Equal Opportunity

Our school is an equal opportunity provider. Applications for enrollment are accepted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. We accept children on a first come, first serve basis.

7. Security Measures

Families are not allowed to enter the classrooms. Families may enter the foyers. Someone will escort your student to the classroom. **Do not allow the child to walk him/herself into the school and do not leave them in the foyer alone.** Equally important is that you re-enter the building when picking up your child at the end of the day. **Your child can only be released to adults, so please do not send in a brother or sister that is not yet 18.**

8. Release Of Children

As stated prior to this, Little Lamb will only release children to an adult and **only** to an adult that is listed on your child's enrollment form. If you need someone other than those people listed, please send a note with your child, stating the name of the person picking them up, relationship to child and the date. All people entering Little Lamb will be required to show some form of identification, please let anyone that you send to pick up your child know this. This is for your child's safety. Also, we understand that sometimes you are in a hurry to get out of here in the afternoon, for whatever reason, but please do not get upset with any staff member who may ask you for ID, they are only following policy and have your child's safety in mind.

9. Fire Drills & Security Drills

Little Lamb has well defined plans for fire drill, lockdown drills, and evacuation drills. Drills are held regularly. Should an emergency requiring evacuation of the school occur, you will be notified immediately.

10. Field Trips

Periodically throughout the year the children are taken on field trips. During the school year (Sept. - May) there is no cost for district children to attend field trips. Opportunities for families to attend as chaperones are provided on some field trips at a cost. Information with full details will be sent home, prior to the trip. Please fill out the general field trip form included with this packet.



11. Medicine

Little Lamb will only administer medication that is provided by the parent and signed in on the **Medicine Permission Form (doctor needs to fill out)**. Please see the family workers for the form. All prescribed medications need to be dated, labeled and have the dosage stated on the label. Over the counter medication, such as Tylenol, needs to be dated, labeled, age appropriate and provided by the families. Please do not send medicine on the bus. Medicine must be handed to our family workers with the proper medicine form filled out by the doctor. This includes over the counter medicine.

***Incident/Accident reports follow the NJ Code:

3A:52-7.6. Bitten broken skin, head/facial injury including bump, fall greater than the child heights or injury requiring immediate medical care, families will be called right away and a report written. All other minor injuries families will be notified at the end of the day via note, email and or call. A written request of incident can be requested and given to family by end of the next school day. ****

12. Sunscreen

During the summer we recommend that you send sunscreen to school with your child, since the children will be playing outdoors often. Please be sure to put your child's name on the bottle. **Please apply sunscreen prior to your child coming to school.**

13. Communicable Diseases

Little Lamb has developed a written policy on the management of communicable diseases. This policy is posted in the school foyer. The policy includes a list of illnesses and/or symptoms for which a child will be separated from the group and possibly sent home. Also, the policy includes the list of diseases for which a child will not be readmitted to the center unless they have a statement from the physician. Finally, you have

13. Communicable Diseases

If your child has been sent home with a fever, please make sure your child is fever free, without medication, 24 hours before returning to school. If your child is sent home for diarrhea or throwing up, please make sure they can eat normally and have symptoms free for 12 hours without medication. If your child was sent home for diarrhea or throwing up and other symptoms, please make sure they can eat normally and are symptoms free for 24 hours without medication.

The following communicable disease requires exclusion from the program:

Respiratory Illness, Gastrointestinal Illness, Contact Illness:

Chicken Pox	Giardia	Lamblia Impetigo
German Measles	Hepatitis A	Lice/Nit free
Haemophilus Influenzae	Salmonella	Scabies
Measles	Shigella	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
Mumps		Ringworm
Strep Throat		
Tuberculosis		
Whooping Cough		
Influenza		
COVID-19		

14. Allergies

Allergies are common among young children. **If your child has an allergy, please let the family workers know.** We will take all appropriate precautions.

15. Clothing

Your child will be active, both indoors and out. It is important for your child to be dressed in comfortable, season-appropriate, washable, play clothes. Please send the clothing to school, labeled in a bag with your child's name on it. If your child does happen to need a change of clothing and there is none available, Little Lamb has the right to call you and request that you bring clothing to your child. **We follow the district Uniform Policy. Slacks and Pants**

Pants: Color: Khaki or black in a solid, single color: Style: Slacks and pants can be pleated or flat front, full length, appropriately fastened and must fit appropriately at the waist. Belts are optional and they must be black or brown. Material: Cotton, canvas, corduroy, linen, polyester, or twill.

Skirts and Jumpers

Color: Khaki or black, in a solid, single color.

Style: Skirts must be, at least, mid-thigh in length.

Shorts and Capris

Color: Khaki or black, in a solid, single color

Style: Shorts must be at least mid-thigh in length.

Material: Cotton, canvas, corduroy, linen, polyester, or twill.

Tops

Color: White, black, gray or red shirts in a solid, single color.

Style: Long or short sleeves with are required. All tops may be worn tucked inside pants or on the outside, if they are fitted appropriately.

Undershirts: White, red or black undershirts or tank tops may be worn under appropriate tops.

Cardigans and Sweaters Color: Black, white, gray or red in a solid, single color. Logo: Vineland Public School and Little Lamb Logos are permitted.

16. Shoes

Your child should wear sneakers or other closed toe shoes to school at all times. No flip flops are allowed.

Sturdy sandals are ok if they have back strap. The children do a lot of running around and climbing and need to have on shoes/sturdy sandals that will stay on their feet and support their ankles. **In the summer, we may have occasional "Water Day Games" on those days flip flops or water shoes will be allowed.**

17. Lunches/Snacks

Little Lamb does provide a lunch program currently along with breakfast and one snack per day. Throw away utensils and milk/juice are also provided. Each meal and snack meet the requirements of the child and adult care food program of the US Department of Agriculture. There will be a lunch menu posted on our FB page.

No sodas or candy are given for lunch or snacks.

If your child cannot have a certain lunch due to allergies, send a doctor's note. If for religious reasons, you cannot eat certain foods, please send a note. You may send in a substitute meal for food allergies or for religious reasons.

We are under CACFP guidelines per state directives.

18. Toys and Personal Belongings

Little Lamb has many toys and items for your child to play with. Therefore, we request that your child refrain from bringing in toys and treasures from home. Little Lamb will not be held responsible for any personal items that are lost, damaged or destroyed. One exception to this rule is on "Show and Tell" days. This is when the child is asked to bring in an item from home and explain it to the class. These items must be labeled and taken home at the end of the day. Should your child lose any such items please contact his/her teacher immediately. The other exception is if your child needs to bring a stuffed animal for nap time. They are allowed to sleep with a small stuffed animal or doll, if it is small and does not make any noise. Please put your child's name on the animal. Once again, Little Lamb will not be responsible for any lost or damaged items.



19. Water Days

Many times, during the summer, the children will participate in water games. On this day your child may wear their bathing suit to school. In a bag, please send in a towel and a change of clothes for your child to change into when they are done in the water. Make sure your child's name is on the towel and on the bag. If your child needs sunscreen, please apply prior to coming to school.

20. Birthdays

Birthdays are special events in a child's life. Contact your child's teacher if you would like to send in a special treat for your child's birthday or if you would like to arrange for a small party in your child's classroom on behalf of your child. **Due to allergies, we do not allow**

food with peanuts. All food must be prepared/bought from a commercial kitchen (bakery, supermarket). **Families are not allowed to enter the rooms.**

21. First Aid

In each building, we have class staff certified in CPR, First Aid and AED. A first aid kit is provided in each room. The Family Workers/Parent Educators are trained on how to give medication properly. We need specific state forms filled out to dispense any type of medication. We will also need medical plans for asthma, EpiPen's, seizures, etc.

22. Medical Insurance

It is the family's responsibility to provide the appropriate medical insurance for their child. If emergency medical treatment is required, when the child is in school, the family's insurance will be the primary coverage. Little Lamb provides accidents & health insurance only as a backup for expenses not covered by the primary plan.

23. Outdoor Play

If the temperature is between 31 degrees and 92 degrees, the children will go outside to play every day. If your child cannot play outside due to not feeling well, please keep them home on that day (s).

24. What to Bring on The First Day

- *Crib Sheet & small blanket for nap. NO regular size pillows. May provide a mini pillow.
- Small stuffed animals are allowed.
- Not potty trained: wipes & pull ups. Label every item with child's name.
- **Extra** set of clothes put in a bag. That set of clothes will be at school.
- All forms required from this application & the food program (if applies), & supplemental forms, if you do not return them by August 26th.

Bus Riders

- Please be outside waiting for the bus 10 minutes before your designated time.
- Buses may run late on the first day.
- The Vineland Public School District provides buses to run the preschool routes. The bus driver is not an employee of Little Lamb. We appreciate their services.
- It is very important to let the school and bus driver know if your child will not be using the bus on a particular day.

Car Riders

- Please drop off your child between 8:10-8:20 AM if not in early care.
- Please pick up your child between 2:00-2:10 PM if not in after care.
- Do not park in the driveway between 8:00-8:20 am & between 1:50-2:20 pm due to buses pulling in and pulling out.
- Due to limited parking spots, you are permitted to park on the grass.
- All children must be picked by an adult (18 years +).
- Children are released to those only on the pickup/contact list.
- **Please let us know who can pick up your child in writing. Please inform us of any address or phone change, and custody documents.**

Uniform Summary

- Children need to wear black or khaki pants or shorts.
- Children need to wear a solid color black, gray, red or white solid shirt.
- Girls need to wear a solid color black or kaki skirts or dresses.
- Children can wear solid color red, white or black sweaters.
- Comfortable play shoes and/or sneakers of any color is allowed. Please no heels or open toe shoes. We follow the Vineland Public School uniform policy.
- Children will be able to wear Little Lamb and Vineland District Logos any day of the week.

Donations

Donations for your child's classroom are optional.

May bring to Meet & Greet, September 2, 1:30-3:00pm

We will direct you to the appropriate classroom if you don't know who your child's teacher is or where your child's class is. Name tags distributed on Sept. 2 for first day of school.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Tissue Box | • Glue Sticks |
| • Small box (various sizes) of Band-Aids | • Small box of latex gloves—
Large |
| • Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox/Lysol) | • Post it Notes |
| • Paperclips | • Masking Tape and/or Scotch
Tape |
| • 4 by 6 unlined index cards | |
- (Any one or two items from this list is helpful)**

Please return forms, wrap payments, & lunch forms before August 29, 2025.

August 1-15th: Office Hours 8:30-4:00 SCHOOL CLOSED: August 18th-22nd August 25-29: Office Hours 9:00-1:45.

Little Lamb School T-Shirts (\$12) will be on sale in the foyer starting September 2.

We encourage all students to have one T-Shirt. We use it for School Field Trips and Spirit Days.

