



Welcome to

QSI International School of

Atyrau's

3 and 4 year-old Program

This information packet will help you understand more about our 3 and 4 year-old program and expectations. Please call the school for an appointment to discuss any questions you may have regarding our program.

QSI International School of Atyrau

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Please contact the office and leave a message for your child or their teacher so your teachers can focus on their students.



Basic Information

We are delighted to have your child as part of our school. Please review the information in this handbook to ensure you understand all of the school's policies. After reading, sign the last page and return to the school acknowledging you read and understand the prerequisites to enter QSI International School of Atyrau's 3 and 4 year-old program.

Program Overview

At QSI International School of Atyrau, we have a child centered, developmentally appropriate 3 and 4 year-old program. Our program focuses on developing the child that is ready for school. Our program is a two-year program. Year one is designed for three year olds and year two is designed for four year olds. The skills are different and more complex from year one to year two. We organize activities around developmentally appropriate skills that allow children to develop at a natural pace. Children are not pushed but are allowed to progress through a set of developmentally appropriate skills that educational research has deemed necessary. We strive to develop the whole child by not only focusing on academics but also by focusing on socialization skills through interactive play that build children's gross and fine motor skills.

This program is designed to engage students in activities that foster and nurture their wonderment of literature, mathematics, and science in the world around them. Our program focuses on oral language skills, and literacy, mathematics, and science. Along with academics, we focus on the social and emotional development of each student.

To learn more about our 3 and 4 year-old curriculum, please visit our curriculum website at curriculum.qsi.org and check under the "Elementary" tab. You will see all the exciting learning that will take place in your child's school year.

What to Bring

Your child's teacher will have a list of items you need to bring to school, but these are what every preschool student needs to have:

1. A pair of inside shoes that your child can put on independently. (No buckles or laces. Velcro is best.) These are kept at school all year long.
2. Extra clothes brought in a bag labeled with your child's name (underwear, socks, trousers, and two shirts: short and long sleeved)*
3. One box of wet wipes
4. Blanket and/or pillow for rest time

*Clothes and belongings must be labeled with your child's name. It will help teachers keep track of each child's belongings.

Lunch

Pack your child's lunch and 2 snacks every day. When you pack a lunch for your child, be sure to provide nutritional food.* Here are some suggestions, but these are not the only choices:

- Juice box
- Milk
- Fruit
- Bread or pasta
- Vegetables
- Meat

*Do not send a lot of sugar-based food such as candy and sodas. In our program, we want to encourage healthy eating habits but do realize something sweet is nice occasionally.

Typical Daily Schedule*

8:20 – 8:30 Children arrive at school, hang up book bags, put on shoes and play quietly.

8:30 – 8:50 Centers and Circle Time**

8:50 – 10:00 Varied literacy activities

10:00 – 10:30 Snack and Recess/Play

10:30 – 11:45 Mathematics Activities

11:45 – 12:00 Clean-up and students leaving at noon get ready to go home

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch and Recess/Play

12:45 – 1:30 QUIET TIME – This includes a 30 minute lay down rest period.

1:30 – 2:00 Snack and Recess/Play

2:00 – 3:00 Time for additional work with students in Literacy and/or Mathematics

3:00 – 3:05 Get ready to go home

*Daily schedules will vary with each teacher and with days when specials are scheduled such as P.E., library or music.

**Circle time is a time for direct teaching, modeling, and reinforcing previously learned concepts. Children learn much of our program’s curriculum during circle time. It is an essential component of our program. For more information about circle time, please check out the links below.

http://education.preschoolrock.com/index.php/preschool_resources_for_teachers/preschool_circle_time_routines

PREREQUISITES TO ADMISSION TO OUR 3 AND 4 YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

In order to be “ready” for our 3 and 4 year-old program, there are some prerequisites. These are mandatory and not negotiable.

Prerequisites

1. Children must be aware of their toilet needs and in essence be toilet trained.* What does this mean? It means that children, in order to enter our program, must CONSISTENTLY:
 - a. Recognize when they need to use the toilet.

- b. Ask to go to the toilet or seek to go to the toilet on their own.
- c. Be able to manipulate clothing to help assist in using the toilet.
- d. Be able to use the toilet without assistance.

*We recognize that accidents will happen and are prepared for that. We also understand that not all small children have the fine motor skills to manipulate buttons, snaps, and zippers. We will assist children with those. However, we expect children to be out of diapers/pull-ups when in our 3 and 4 year-old program without exception. Children, of appropriate age (see #4), who are unaware that they have to use the toilet or are unable to use the toilet independently **will not be accepted** in the program or will be asked to join the program when these skills are mastered. If a parent sends a child in pampers or pull-ups or after an accident puts their child in either of these, we will ask that your child remain at home until he or she is able consistently to do **a – d** above and no longer requires the support of pampers/pull-ups.

2. Children must be able to feed themselves. Children should be able to use basic utensils to eat their lunches and snacks when required. We will still open bottles, heat lunches and assist children with their lunch needs, but we do not *feed* children at lunchtime or snack. To assist us at school, we ask you to train your child to eat independently at home also. We will not force a child to eat. Do not request that your child be required to eat all of the food sent that day. This creates an atmosphere of tension when a child believes he or she must eat everything and creates tension for the teacher when the child resists. We will insure your child eats enough to maintain nutritional needs by having them take a few bites of everything.
3. Children must demonstrate the *willingness* and ability to focus on teacher instruction, on the adults in the building, and on a task for short time periods. This period of time varies on the task. However, children at this age should be able to do a task for up to 10 minutes at a time. Our program combines play with academics, but some young children who are not ready for a school program, may not want to or even be able to sit and focus on any task for a given time period. These children need to remain at home until they are ready.
4. We respect the 31 October cutoff date. A child who is not 3-years-old by 31 October **will not** be enrolled in our program. In addition, we **will not** place them in the 4-year-old class if they are not 4-years-old by 31 October.

QSI International School of Atyrau reserves the right to ask a child to wait for enrollment until they have met all the requirements for the program. This decision is made to ensure all of our students are successful.

Thank you for your interest in QSI International School of Atyrau's 3 and 4 year-old program. We look forward to working with you and your child.



Parent Signature Page

We have read the Preschool Handbook. By our signature below, we agree to the terms and are fully aware of the prerequisites for our child to enter QSI International School of Atyrau's preschool program. We attest that our child meets all prerequisites.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/s Signature: _____

Date: _____

Director of Instruction: _____