The Early Weeks of Preschool

 During the first weeks of school, your child will be establishing a relationship with her/her new teacher, staff members and the classroom environment; this process is called “pairing”.  The purpose of pairing is for the teacher/staff members & child to:

* Assess a child’s skills through play
* Develop positive relationships
* Understand that school is safe & fun
* Become familiar with the toys and objects in the classroom
* Teacher has the opportunity to learn about how the child is motivated, what types of reinforcers the child likes and the child's’ learning style
* Child learns to identify staff members in the classroom as fun, safe, lovable people the child wants to be with.

The pairing process begins on the very first day of school for your child and can typically last anywhere between 2-6 weeks.  It can be longer or shorter depending on your child and how they acclimate to the new environment.  During this time your child participates in events he/she chooses to participate in.  “Demands” are not typically given to the child unless it inhibits their safety.  Demands will gradually increase throughout the pairing process and and the end of the process your child should feel, safe, comfortable and ready to learn in in school!

Communication with the teacher, during this time may be daily or 2-3x weekly.  When your child is acclimated to the school schedule you will receive a binder each Friday; the binder will note your child’s weekly progress as well as update you on classroom happenings.