

Butterfly Room  
September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to pre-kindergarten/kindergarten and the Butterfly Room at Espree Child Learning Center! We would like to introduce ourselves.

My name is Ashley Aquino and I will be one of the two Butterfly teachers. This will be my fourth year teaching here at Espree. I taught along side our other teacher Mrs. Kimball in the Bumblebee Room for 3 years. I spent the past year away from Espree so I could spend time with my son Connor. I am excited to be back as a kindergarten teacher with many students that I had in the Bumblebee Room! This will be my eleventh year of teaching ages 2 ½ through private kindergarten. I began teaching after receiving my bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies & Liberal Arts with an emphasis in math and a reading minor. I then graduated from the teacher licensure program at Metropolitan State College of Denver. Since my son Connor was born in November 2018, I spend most of my time outside of school with him and my husband of 17 years, Chris. We enjoy being outside exploring, dancing, and cooking. I am excited to be back at Espree with this impressionable and energetic group of students!

My name is Ginette Kimball and I will be the other one of your child's Butterfly teachers. Previously, I taught in the Bumblebee Room for the past 14 years. I found my love for teaching while I was a teacher assistant in the Butterfly Room and was mentored by Miss Paris. I graduated from Metropolitan State College of Colorado with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Teaching has always been my passion and I am so thankful for the smiling faces of your children that always brightens my day. Most weekends you can find me spending time with my family, my husband Chad, my stepdaughter Jordan, my son Camden, and daughter Parker. We love being outside and being active with our two huskies Dakota and Rocky. I cannot wait to start making lasting memories full of laughter and friendship and help to build a strong foundation so your children can excel.

During the month of September, our unit will consist of these topics: getting acquainted, friends, family, my community, and students around the world. Along with these topics, we will also be introducing a "Spy Unit". The little detectives will have to work independently and together to solve cases that coincide with the topics of the month.

The beginning of a new school year can be a fun and exciting time. but can also cause some stress and anxiety. Here are a few helpful suggestions to get you through the next few weeks.

1. Separation anxiety may occur at the beginning of the school year. If it does, reassure your child that everything will be fine, and you will be back to pick him/her up. One final hug and kiss will always help. One thing to remember, the longer you stay the harder it is on both of you.
2. Please leave any food, toys, or blankets at home, unless these items have been requested for a special project or activity for school. We will be doing an activity called "Spy of the Week". Each week, one student will be featured. For that week, they will be allowed to bring toys, photographs, books, etc. that are special to them. You will know your child has been chosen when they bring home a tote bag labeled "Spy of the Week". This will be the Butterflies version of show and tell.

3. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Cooler weather is coming, so you might want to bring a jacket every day. We will be going outside every day, weather permitting.
4. Butterfly information will be posted on the wall just inside the door as well as on Facebook. At the end of each week, the children will be bringing home “Friday Folders”. They will contain brief summaries of our week, any special requests, notes from the following Monday.
5. Class begins promptly at 8:45 am. We strongly encourage everyone to be on time.

**Our class schedule is as follows:**

8:45-9:05 Opening Activities

9:05-10:15 Language Arts & Reading

10:15-11:00 Snack & Recess

11:00-11:45 Math

11:45-12:00 Stories, Songs, & Prepare for Lunch

12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:30 Rest & Relaxation

1:30-2:00 Recess

2:00-2:30 Social Studies

2:30-3:15 Art/Music/Gross Motor

3:15-3:30 Snack

3:30-5:00 Dismissal

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** - Patriots Day- wear your red, white and blue
- **Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Broncos Day – wear Broncos gear or orange and blue

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let us know. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Ashley Aquino

Ginette Kimball