

Funshop Time is ...



Fun Time
Play time
Memory time
Learning time
Language time
Uninterrupted time
Child and parent time
The Best Time!

Join the Funshop Family

Funshop is a place where children meet and have fun. Children from 16 months to five years of age meet during weekly classes designed to stimulate their current stage of development.



Spring and fall sessions are 13 weeks. The summer session is six weeks. At least one parent, relative, or caregiver must accompany each child to every class. Daytime and evening classes are offered to accommodate the family's schedule. Funshop is compliant with the American's with Disabilities Act and most staff members have CPR training.

For more information, costs, or to arrange a tour of the Funshop program call Linda Berberet or Sharon Entwistle at 753-6234.

Funshop 753-6234

Funshop
Springfield Park District
P.O. Box 5052

Kids Are Special People



Welcome to



Funshop



**An Early Education Program
For Parents and Children
"Together"**

Springfield Park District

Welcome to Funshop

Celebrating Childhood

Funshop was established in the winter of 1976 as a program that would celebrate childhood. The program's founder, Dr. Georgia Davis, wanted to create a special place where parents could nurture and enjoy their child's development. A place where each child could experience that wonderful feeling of being very, very special. The Springfield Park District saw this as an opportunity to serve even its *littlest citizens* and provided a foundation and home for the program. Funshop has been thriving in the Springfield community ever since - the light from thousands of smiling faces testifying to its success.



The foundation of the innovative Funshop experience is a firm belief that parents are not only a child's first teachers but also his or her most trusted and influential educators. Unlike daycare centers or other early education programs, children who attend Funshop aren't left in the care of teachers who supervise their activities and guide them in learning. At Funshop, the parent assumes the role of teacher. The program's staff provides the tools and guid-



ance that allows parents to fully engage their children in the wonderful world of learning and discovering.

Funshop is open to children from 16 months to 5 years old. Medical research has confirmed that the early years of a child's life are a critical time in shaping intelligence and strengthening the ability to learn. Doctors believe that it is a time of serious brain construction. Funshop provides parents with the building blocks that are necessary for enhancing their children's continued learning and development.



Funshop Philosophy

- Tomorrow depends on how we love, nurture, and educate our children today.
- Promoting self-esteem, self-discipline and respect for others nurtures our children's growth and knowledge.
- Creating a warm, positive environment inspires children to reach their full potential.
- Every child is unique - an unrepeated miracle.

Putting the Fun in Funshop

What does a child do at Funshop? Have fun. Lots of fun. The Funshop room is filled with toys and games of all types. Arts and crafts stations are set-up throughout and music plays in the background. The Funshop room is designed to engage children in activities that will spark their imaginations, strengthen their communication abilities, and exercise their decision-making and motor skills.



Most of each Funshop class is devoted to self-directed play where the child takes the lead in deciding what to do. Parents follow along and participate in their activities by asking thoughtful questions and providing positive affirmations. Each class also features small-group activities where social and language skills are developed. Clean-up time teaches a child how to be responsible and the satisfaction of a job well done. The class ends with children and parents forming one big circle to join in song and to celebrate birthdays.

Activities extend beyond the Funshop room during the many field trips scheduled throughout the year. Children discover new opportunities for learning while visiting the zoo, skating at the ice rink, and riding on the train - to name just a few.

