

Rainbow Bridge LifeWays Program

Thank you for your interest in Rainbow Bridge LifeWays Program. Below are some answers to frequently asked questions. For other questions or to arrange a visit or an interview, please call Faith at Rainbow Bridge, 3640 Buckeye Ct, Boulder, CO 80304. Phone: 303-440-1459.

- **How are LifeWays early childhood programs unique?**

LifeWays North America draws from the indications of Rudolf Steiner/Waldorf education and modern formulations such as *The Irreducible Needs of Children* by Brazelton and Greenspan, which emphasize nurturing the child's sense of trust and well-being through having the same caregivers throughout the early years. Relationship-based care that takes family life as its model complements your home life and provides an environment in which your child will flourish.

LifeWays programs recognize that human relationship and activity are the essential tools for all foundational skills for life. In infancy and early childhood, daily life experience is the "curriculum" through which your child experiences healthy life rhythms and routines. Beauty, comfort, security, and connection to the living world of nature form the basis for the "Living Arts:"

- **Domestic Arts**—Children find joy in the practical and meaningful activities of daily life, laying a foundation for future academic skills, initiative and purpose.
- **Nurturing Arts**—Your child will be nourished with natural foods, hair brushing, calming foot baths, daily outdoor time, and rest for full-day children.
- **Social Arts**—Mixed-age groupings foster a secure relationship with the primary caregiver over time and provide the opportunity to be both a younger and older "sibling."
- **Creative Arts**—Imaginative play is enriched by story telling, puppet shows, artistic activities, crafts, music and singing.

- **What programs are offered?**

Our mixed-age program offers the advantage, over time, of children being both one of the youngest and one of the oldest children. We provide a rich, creative program for the 3-5 years olds with many of the activities of the Waldorf kindergarten, and we welcome toddlers. We are able to accept two children under age 2, providing a mixed-age family-style group ranging in age from 1-5 years.

You can choose either half-day (8:30 am – 12:30 pm) or the full day program (8:30 am – 3:30 pm), with extended day until 5:30 pm if needed. We provide as much flexibility as possible by offering 5-day (M-F), 3-day (M,Tu,W or W,Th,F) and 2-day options (M,Tu or Th,F). We provide nutritious lunches of whole grains and organic vegetable, and parents provide fruit for morning snacks.

- **What are the Program's dates?**

Our program follows an extended school year, running from August 17, 2009 through June 30, 2010. If you need care during the summer, we help our families come together around childcare and can also refer you to several Waldorf "summer camps" in the area.

- **Where are you located, and how can I guarantee a space for my child?**

The program is in Faith's home in north Boulder. It is conveniently located two blocks southeast of Broadway and Linden, at 3640 Buckeye. The home is on a quiet street and has a wonderful backyard with grass, natural bushy areas, and a large deck. It has a den that is dedicated to the children, as well

as kitchen, dining room and living room space that are also used. Please call to set a time that you and your family can visit. Then, if you decide to enroll, please send in the enclosed application along with

the \$50 application fee and we will arrange to visit you in your home. A fee schedule is enclosed. Signing the contract and paying the Supplies Fee assures your child's place in the program.

- **Are you licensed?**

We are fully licensed as a "large daycare home," able to care for a maximum of 12 children, with two children under the age of 2. There are two care providers, Faith and Rahima, and other assistants as needed.

- **What are Rahima and Faith's qualifications?**

"Miss Faith" — Faith Baldwin completed the LifeWays Training and Certification and worked in the toddler program at Boulder Waldorf Kindergarten for three years prior to opening Rainbow Bridge. Faith was herself a Waldorf graduate and has this approach "in her bones," along with being accomplished in the arts, crafts and music. Prior to finding her delight and calling as an early childhood educator, she received a Master's Degree in International Relations from Georgetown University.

"Oma" — Rahima Baldwin Dancy ("Oma" to the children) opened one of the first Waldorf Preschool Homes in the 1980s, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she also taught kindergarten at the Rudolf Steiner School. She has been on the board of LifeWays North America since 2002. Rahima is internationally known as the author of *You Are Your Child's First Teacher* on Steiner's indications for birth through age six, which has been translated into Spanish, Thai, Korean, Japanese and Hebrew. She is a parenting educator, conference organizer and administrator of the weblog www.waldorfinthehome.org. Rahima also holds a Master's in Gerontology and Organizational Change from California State University Sacramento.

- **Do you offer parent education?**

We offer support and education for parents through parent evenings, seasonal celebrations, and conference. In addition, LifeWays offers a year-long training and certification program, planned for Boulder in 2009.

Rainbow Bridge LifeWays Program is operated by Informed Family Life, a nonprofit (501c3) educational organization; donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Rainbow Bridge has applied to be a "Representative Program" with LifeWays North America, open to volunteers and interns from LifeWays, Naropa and other trainings. LifeWays programs are not associated with any religious denomination or sect and do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic origin.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you and your family!