

Winston Academy: Quality Programs for your Child & Dedication you can Trust

by: Tracy M. McNeill

All her life Angie Smith looked forward to taking care of children as a profession. “In high school I knew that was my goal,” says Angie. “It’s all I ever wanted to do.”

Angie’s dream came true November 2003 when she opened **Winston Academy**.

“This is a clean, state-of-the-art childcare center, incorporating all the latest ideas in innovative and educational activities to maximize each child’s potential,” says Angie. Located next door to Winston Elementary School, **Winston Academy** serves infants 6 weeks to pre-K, as well as before and after-school care.

“**Winston Academy** offers the best in child care for all our local parents, not just the nine-to-fivers who work nearby. Parents with long commutes often find it very difficult to pick up their children by 6pm. For their convenience, **Winston Academy** is open 6am-7pm.

“A career in child care is definitely not for everyone. For me, it was vital to have staff members who had CHOSEN child care as their career, not happened into it by accident. Taking care of children is a sacred trust, a job for dedicated professionals. To qualify for **Winston Academy**, each prospective staff member must have a heart for children as well as the skills and credentials to work closely with children on a day to day basis.”

“We offer small class sizes and teacher/child ratios. For instance, our infant room has a maximum group size of eight, with one teacher for every four babies. We follow the *National Association of Education of Young Children* (NAEYC) guidelines, a step above the State

guidelines. **Winston Academy** can provide your child a better learning and developmental environment than the average childcare center.”

*“The National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC) programs help children do much more than learn numbers, colors and shapes. Higher quality programs such as the ones **Winston Academy** offers help children learn how to learn. It helps them question why, discover alternate answers, get along with others, use their developing language, thinking and motor skills.”*

“Our staff is well trained and dedicated. Every staff member is CPR and First Aid certified, and has a qualifying degree/credential or is working towards one. From Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) to Masters Degree, each is a consummate professional. We also mandate continuing education for all staff.” **Winston Academy** staff members also attend weekly staff meetings and Child Development classes once a month.

“Children learn by play, not just by sitting around. We encourage hands-on learning by offering center areas- an important part of the learning environment for young children. Children choose a center to experience each day. They learn to make decisions, share, take turns and value the opinions of others. Center-time also builds self-confidence, improves social skills and vocabulary.”

Our children enjoy hot, home-cooked breakfast and lunch. We also have homemade afternoon snacks, all served in our spacious dining area.” The Center practices family-style dining that teaches children healthy eating habits and table manners.

Each age group has its own fenced play area. “Our small infants are taken outside in the stroller daily; older infants can crawl around in their own tiled gazebo area. Our older kids enjoy a trike trail, sand/water play, lots of room to run and play safely as well as age-appropriate playground equipment.”

“In our after-school program, ages 4-8 and 9-11 are in separate areas. Children are given a healthy snack, and then spend an hour on homework. Our school age program participates in many activities in and out of the center, including gymnastics and Tai Kwan Do, and we offer daily field trip on school holidays and during summer break.

Parents may visit or look in on their children at any time. “We have monitors throughout the center and playground for parents to view their child’s day, and of course they are always welcome to visit.”

At **Winston Academy**, we teach our children the value of giving back to our community by involving them in worthy causes. We recently completed our Second Annual March of Dimes Fund Raiser, with each classroom raising money by selling items such as beanie babies and Saturn tickets. Our parents were a big help with these projects and we were able to make a significant contribution, as well as teach our children lessons that will last them a lifetime.

For further information, or to make an appointment to see **Winston Academy**, call Angie at 770-949-7462. Winston Academy is located at 7425 Bankhead Highway in Winston. “We are Winston Academy, where quality childcare is not expensive, IT’S PRICELESS.”