

## Our Philosophy



The Concord Public Schools Integrated Preschool is designed to foster positive feelings towards learning and to make it an enjoyable first school experience. We provide the foundation for future academics by encouraging children to become independent, self-confident, and inquisitive learners.

Every child is a unique person with an individual pattern and timing of growth. We believe in respecting and responding to each child's learning strengths and differences. Learning must be fun and a child must experience success to stay engaged in the learning process.

We strive for excellence and an educationally stimulating environment through developmentally appropriate activities, highly trained staff, and an exceptionally creative curriculum.

## Our Curriculum



The curriculum of the Concord Public Schools Integrated Preschool follows [The Guidelines for Preschool Curriculum Experiences](#), based on the *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks* and the educational approaches recommended by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children*.

Our preschool addresses skill development through direct teaching. We follow an interdisciplinary thematic approach with units that revolve around the seasons, science topics, special interests, and literature. We use age-appropriate materials/activities and implement a variety of highly effective teaching strategies and methods to target children's individual learning styles.

The teachers in this program are very skilled at serving as guides and facilitators. Our hands-on curriculum encourages children to be active and creative explorers who are not afraid to try out their own ideas and to think their own thoughts. The activities we plan, the way we organize the environment, select toys, create materials, plan the daily schedule, and talk with children, are all designed to accomplish the goals of our curriculum and give each child a successful start in school. Play is a young child's "work" as they touch, manipulate, and experiment with materials, explore and observe the environment, and interact with adults and one another.

Observations of the children at work and play allow the teachers to present additional challenges to assist individual children in pushing their thinking further. Children are never expected to compete with or match other children's rate of growth or development. All of these components help to create a relaxing, non-stressful, yet challenging environment where children learn at their own individual stage of development. Ultimately, the goal of our preschool is to develop a positive self-image and a love for learning.



The classroom day is broken into several blocks to meet the needs of the whole child while taking into consideration children's attention spans, physical, and emotional capabilities.

In addition to our daily activities, all children participate in a weekly Language Group facilitated by a speech-language pathologist and a weekly OT Group by an occupational therapist. These are fun and exciting groups that provide enrichment for everyone.

Our preschool also introduces basic concepts from the Open Circle program that the Concord Elementary Schools follow. This is a social skills program that not only deals with appropriate school behavior, but teaches acceptance, tolerance, and compassion.

