

Early Steps Integrated Preschool

Program Philosophy

We believe preschool children learn best in a child-centered environment that provides developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Each child's diverse and changing needs are best addressed using a team approach.

Families are an integral part of the educational process and we encourage them to be active participants.

Program Description

Our classrooms are multi-aged and balanced with respect to diversity of the community's populations. Classroom programs and staffing are planned each year in response to the individualized needs of the children. The curriculum is planned to fulfill goals and objectives for preschool children in their social, emotional, cognitive language, and physical development. We have planned a learning environment that is:

- Safe
- Child-centered
- Success oriented
- Developmentally appropriate
- Educationally challenging
- Integrated with respect to educational needs
- Play based

Our educational approach is characterized by:

- A developmental perspective which views learning as a lifelong process
- Ongoing assessment of performance to inform the instructional plan
- Flexible teaching and intervention approaches
- The ability to respond to the changing needs of children and families

The collaborative team includes:

- Educators
- Instructional assistants
- Consulting psychologists

- Occupational therapists
- Physical therapists
- Speech/Language therapists
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

The consultative team plans for every child. Some children receive additional direct services according to their educational plan. Parent partnerships are critical to student success. This partnership is supported by:

- Ongoing parent-teacher communication
- Family activities
- Parent-teacher conferences
- School volunteering

What Is An Integrated Program? An integrated program recognizes the strengths and needs of the whole student, including the physical, social, and academic, giving equal consideration to each in the development of program options. Children with special needs who may require services in addition to those planned for all children are embraced as integral members of the classroom.

Classroom Routines A variety of learning activities are planned each day for the children. Classroom routines are designed to assist children in becoming independent and competent. Each classroom follows its own schedule, based on the needs of the children enrolled. Classrooms include the following components:

Group Meeting Time: Children learn to take turns, to participate in-group discussions, to follow and anticipate daily routines. **Choices:** Each classroom is organized into learning centers, which provide a variety of focused activities. Children learn to make choices and explore their own interests to build independence, cognition, language and social skills. **Snack or Lunch:** Eating together provides a valuable social experience for preschool children, as well as an opportunity to work on personal care issues such as managing personal belongings, hand washing, table manners, nutrition and eating skills. **Gross Motor/Outdoor Time:** Young children love to move! Outdoor play allows children to vigorously move their whole body, which facilitates gross motor skill development and coordination. When outdoor play is not possible, we have access to the school gym. **Story Time:** Reading is vital to children's school success. Early literacy experiences take place in each classroom through reading, writing, and oral language activities. **Closing:** Each classroom utilizes its own routine to bring closure to the day.

Curriculum The Early Steps Preschool follows specific curriculum to expose children to a variety of math, literacy, and social skills. These curricula are aligned with the Massachusetts Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences. **Opening the World to Learning:** OWL is a comprehensive curriculum that covers all domains of early learning. The content of each unit is built around a carefully crafted daily routine within an activity- center day. Themes, skills, and concepts are developed through quality children's fiction and nonfiction trade books. **Building Blocks:** This mathematics curriculum is designed to develop preschooler's early mathematical knowledge through various individual and small- and large-group activities. Building Blocks for Math embeds mathematical learning in children's daily activities, with the goal of helping children relate their informal math knowledge to more formal mathematical concepts. **AI's Pals:** AI's Pals is a comprehensive curriculum and teacher training program that develops social- emotional skills, self-control, problem-solving abilities, and healthy decision-making. Teachers use fun lessons, original music, and engaging puppets to help children regulate their emotions and behaviors. **Teaching Strategies GOLD:** This online-developmental checklist helps teachers to monitor and track students' progress in the areas of social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, the arts, and English language acquisition. GOLD report cards are share with parents

online through an interactive website that includes family resources and activities to try at home with your child.

General Information 2018-2019 Hours We offer 3 hour and 2.5 hour classes, with morning and afternoon sessions meeting four days a week. The 5 hour class meets 8:00AM – 1:00PM for five days a week. Classrooms are located at the Hosmer Elementary School (1 Concord Rd) and at the Phillips building (30 Common St).

Morning class 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Afternoon class 11:35 AM - 2:05 PM

Currently we have 3, 4 and 5-day programs. Each year we review program design related to the needs of the children we serve. Days and time frame may vary. Notification of specific days and hours will be sent with placement letters.

Age Eligibility

3 years old before September 1, 2017 through Kindergarten age.

Tuition Cost *(Programming information/tuition is based on 2016/2017 school year and is subject to change) \$6800 for the 5-day morning program (8:00 AM – 1:00 PM) \$3700 for the 4-day morning program \$3100 for the 3-day morning program \$3300 for the 4-day afternoon program -Please note that any previous outstanding balances must be paid in full-

Application Time Line: Monday, February 5th Preschool Preview - Parent/Child Visiting Day (snow date, Feb. 12th) 12:30 PM- 1:30 PM

Please register by calling 617-926-7765. Leave your name, child's name and telephone number. You can also e-mail terri.stafford@watertown.k12.ma.us or debra.brown@watertown.k12.ma.us

Wednesday, February 7th Applications due March, 2018 Parents will be notified by mail of placement decision. April, 2018 Non-refundable deposit due.

Placements We look at the make up of the continuing students in the classroom and consider the following when placing new students:

- Gender (balancing number of boys and girls) - Age (keeping the class multi-age) - School district (a representation of students from each of the school districts)

Telephone Numbers: Early Childhood office: 617-926-7765 (Please feel free to leave a voice mail)

Karen Feeney, Early Childhood Director Terri Stafford, Parent Outreach Debra Brown,
Administrative Aide

Watertown Public Schools Early Childhood Center Application for Integrated
Preschool 2018-2019

Child's Name _____ Male or Female

Date of Birth _____ Age as of
9/1/18 _____

Parent Names

Address

E-mail

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

Best number to reach you during the day: Home Cell

Elementary School District: Cunniff _____ Hosmer _____ Lowell _____

What language did your child first learn to speak? _____ What
language do you speak at home? _____ Any preschool experience?
_____ When? _____ Does your child attend playgroups? _____ Where?

Please tell us a few things about your child:

What do you hope your child will gain from a preschool experience?

Is there any other information we should know about your child?

Placements are made according to availability and classroom dynamics. Please indicate any
restrictions or considerations we may need to know about.

Please number your preference: ____ 5-day AM ____ 4-day AM ____ 3-day AM ____ 4-day PM

Location preference (not guaranteed) _____ One Concord Rd _____ 30 Common St

Please return completed application to: Early Steps Preschool

One Concord Rd Watertown, MA 02472