

GET SET FOR SCHOOL™ Pre-K



PHILOSOPHY & PRINCIPLES

The Get Set for School readiness curriculum uses a developmental approach that is based on the most relevant research about how young children learn best:

- Break difficult concepts into simple tasks
- Believe that every child can achieve
- Use really cool materials that make children want to learn

What and How We Teach

Pre-K is a time of rapid growth and development. It's a year of preparation for kindergarten and for future success in school and in life. To achieve, children need to be imaginative, independent, and actively involved in their own learning.

Imaginative

Children learn naturally through everyday experiences with people, places, and things. They are born imitators and scientists who thrive on active hands-on interaction with the physical world. They learn through play and through physical and sensory experiences.

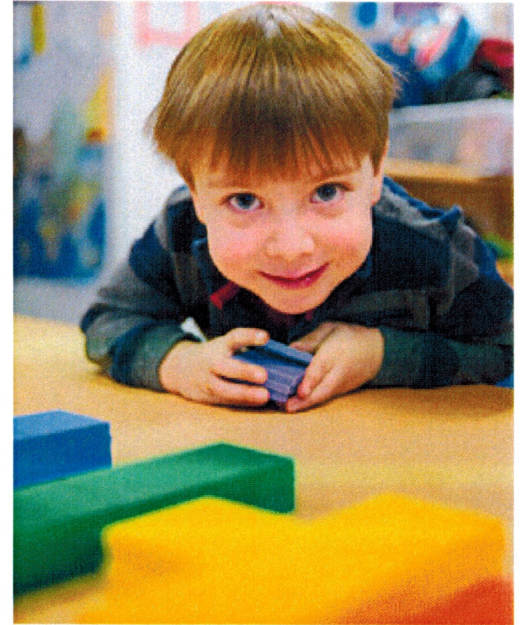
We want children to be imaginative explorers, and believe that teachers and parents support curiosity by what they place in a child's environment. Children play with what's there. Including fun, engaging materials throughout the learning space affects how children feel, what they do, and how they learn. Get Set for School materials accommodate both teacher-directed and student-initiated playful learning, because we know that sparking the imagination leads to a lifelong love of learning.

Independent

We support capable children by how we teach. Much of what Pre-K students learn is incidental—whatever is around them, what they hear and see. We deliberately build familiarity and competency with the music CDs that we play for them, the words that we use, and the way in which we use materials and teach lessons.

We also know that children should learn explicitly. Basic readiness skills should be taught systematically. It's not up to children to decide how to read, write, and count. We teach them the way we read and write from top to bottom and left to right. We teach them how to hold a crayon and how to write letters. We teach them key skills to advance their competency and success - so they develop the skills to be independent as they enter school.

Teachers need support to foster independence in children. Our materials provide flexibility for the teacher and offer activities in a developmental sequence. Ensuring mastery of one skill before introducing another builds the competence and confidence children need for independent problem solving.



Involved

Pre-K is social and challenging. Four-year-olds are new to being involved with and caring about others, sharing, waiting a turn, and following the teacher. Some children in every group have personal challenges with these skills.

We use music to encourage inclusive participation and development of social skills alongside important physical skills, language, and early readiness skills. We also promote group play and accessibility so that children of different abilities can participate and learn with and from each other. We believe that children who are involved with each other are better able to focus their attention to follow the teacher actively.

Our materials also encourage family involvement to continue learning activities at home. Many activities have take-home components to encourage children to form connections between learning in school and home situations.

Music, movement, and marvels surround...



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