



# Early Childhood Center

## Why enroll your two-year-old in preschool?

Important reasons a two-year-old should attend preschool:

- 1) **Confidence!** Preschoolers develop confidence as they interact with classmates and teachers in school. Teachers nurture self-confidence by coaching children to explore and express their own ideas. Arts time, role playing, outdoor play, and sharing during circle time provide unique opportunities for developing confidence. Children also gain confidence as they master academic concepts and self-help skills, such as putting on outerwear, using the restroom, riding a bike, and caring for classroom materials.
- 2) **Independence!** A big part of building self-confidence for a toddler is successfully learning to independently care for oneself outside of the home. In a preschool setting, children have lots of opportunities to independently unpack and eat lunch with friends, clean up after themselves, use the bathroom, and manage their own emotions in a group setting. They also learn how to get dressed to go outside and are given ample time for role playing in dramatic play. A lot of learning in a preschool setting simply comes from children watching other children navigate similar tasks.
- 3) **Love of Learning!** Experienced teachers supported by the framework of a play-based curriculum are able to spark a love of learning in a way that is unique to the classroom setting. By learning with other children about the surrounding world, preschool offers a whole new level of experiences beyond the family environment. Preschool children not only learn from their teachers but also have valuable opportunities to learn from each other.
- 4) **Self Expression! ... Appropriate Self-Expression!** Preschool offers so many opportunities for rich language development. Teachers guide children as they learn to express their thoughts in a group setting and model appropriate behavior and responses. Sharing toys in the construction area, role playing during imaginary play, talking and singing during circle time, and eating lunch all provide amazing opportunities for children to develop tools for self-expression, conflict resolution, and vocabulary development.
- 5) **Tolerance and Flexibility!** Children in preschool learn a lot about similarities and differences between themselves and their peers. While participating in the close-knit community of a preschool class, children learn how to be tolerant of different ideas, behaviors, opinions, and mannerisms. Good teachers help children tolerate differences during play and guide and model peaceful resolution to conflicts when they occur.
- 6) **Follow Instructions!** Following instructions is an integral part of a preschool day. Teachers take care to give instructions that are age appropriate and timely. Teachers also help children learn to follow instructions in a group setting and navigate transitions in the daily schedule. Some children might need extra support transitioning from one engaging activity to another, and experienced teachers are equipped with the skills to support these transitions.
- 7) **Take Turns!** Preschool provides excellent learning opportunities for taking turns. Whether it's waiting for a turn to play with goopy slim at the sensory table or to wash hands, teachers help children learn to be patient and interact appropriately with others while they wait.