

# Pre-K at Wonders

## ... Set for School Success



### Our Philosophy & Curriculum

Our students head off to kindergarten set for school success. The Wonders community fosters curiosity and caring as we prepare enthusiastic learners eager to discover their world and the people in it.

We believe children learn best through:

- meaningful interactions with people and
- problem solving with creative materials.

We build our instruction around The Creative Curriculum® - a comprehensive, research-based system that covers all areas of learning and development from birth through kindergarten.

- The Creative Curriculum is structured around 38 objectives that guide teachers to carefully plan for the needs of the whole child.
- The Creative Curriculum matches the Wonders philosophy that children learn through active, creative exploration connected to meaningful, and motivating, study topics. Parents receive detailed weekly learning plans and teachers create portfolios for each child covering all learning objectives.



### Literacy

The road to reading is built out of letter-sound learning, practice with print, and a love of stories. Wonders teachers plan a balanced approach to literacy by developing children's phonemic awareness, their understanding of how print works, and their story comprehension. In our Pre-K classes, children express themselves on paper, play with language, and explore letter formations. Some of the activities you'll see in our Pre-K classrooms are:

- Handwriting Without Tears® for Pre-K: an engaging, developmentally appropriate approach to learning handwriting skills through building letters out of their component parts.
- weekly individual writing journals
- interactive storytelling
- studies of favorite children's book authors and illustrators

### Math

In our classrooms, math matters as children playfully develop number sense using three dimensional materials. Each day, children compare and estimate quantities, construct shapes, and create patterns. They develop their numeracy skills in real-life contexts through activities such as cooking





with recipes, counting up class votes, measuring our heights, using tally marks to count sets, and writing numerals to record discoveries. Math language and scientific discovery tools are used to make sense of what we experience each day.

## Science

We design science experiences that stimulate questioning and discovery. In small groups, teachers introduce components of the scientific method. Teachers support children as they develop hypotheses about topics that interest them, test those hypotheses through trial and error, and draw conclusions from their observations. Wonders children are motivated to seek answers to questions like: “When will my bean plant sprout?”, “What will happen if I hold the ramp up higher?” and “How can I get my paper airplane to fly longer?”

## Social & Emotional Skills

At Wonders, we know success in school, as in life, requires social skills and emotional regulation. We believe social competence and confidence develop when teachers plan activities that teach self-help, self-regulation, and communication skills. Cooperative games, paired peer creations, and multicultural, community experiences foster social-emotional success. Learning at Wonders is hands-on AND hearts-on!

## The Arts

In our classrooms, the focus is on creating, not crafting. Wonders children express themselves daily through drawing, painting, dancing, singing, trying new instruments and taking on dramatic roles. Process-oriented art experiences are infused into all areas of study. We offer a wide selection of

creative materials to engage all of the senses and our teachers introduce new techniques and tools so children can unleash their imaginations.

## Child Assessment

Wonders uses Teaching Strategies Gold’s Online Assessment System to carefully observe each child’s development and document their learning. In each learning area, teachers use on-going, in-context assessments to determine each child’s current skill level. They use this information to then plan daily small group lessons aimed at taking children to the next level in that specific skill progression.



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