



## CURRICULUM CORNER

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### **Our Pre-K Curriculum: Children Discover Their World**

Wonders' Dolphin and Butterfly Pre-K classrooms are now wrapping up their second year using our Children Discover Their World (CDW) curriculum with an exciting and delicious study of fruits and vegetables. Completing this "Farm To Table" study means our pre-k teachers have now fully implemented both of the two rotating yearly components that make up the CDW curriculum cycle and they are excited to continue in the fall.

The Children Discover Their World curriculum series was developed by the University of Maryland and is fully aligned with MSDE's Early Learning Standards and their Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. This hands-on and experiential approach is based on research showing children learn best by exploring and constructing their understanding of their world. The curriculum series consists of two alternating study topic sequences: Children Study Their World (CSW) and Children Explore Their World (CEW). Each consists of 8 units of study structured as project-based inquiry that emphasize daily math and literacy small groups. Each day, the teachers intentionally group the children based on their current skill levels in order to deliver focused instruction around academic skills and around hands-on science or social-study investigations.

This curriculum is a great fit for our multi-age preschool classrooms. The rotating CSW - CEW cycle was intentionally designed for classes like ours because the curriculum creators recognized that so many pre-K classrooms are now set up with children staying in the class for two years. The study topics are carefully selected, and the projects are specifically designed so that children in multi-age classrooms will not repeat topic content and will be continually challenged to learn new, age-appropriate skills. An additional benefit of the design of this curriculum is that it leaves room between the 8 main topics for our teachers to create additional experiences based on the current interests of the specific children in their class.