



PRESCHOOL, 2009 - 2010

During the preschool years children encounter an enormous variety of experiences, a wide range of developmental growth, and challenges of all kinds. We provide new and exciting experiences for The Grammar School's youngest children five full days per week. We stimulate children's curiosity and encourage their expression through music, art, drama, physical skills, and a variety of language games and activities. We emphasize the development of positive social skills as an integral part of each day. Our preschoolers learn to care for each other and for their environment, and they enjoy being a part of the larger school community.

Our day begins with ample free time for exploration, experimentation, and discovery. A child may choose from options including blocks and LEGO, clay, workbench, the sand/water/seeds table, books and puzzles, painting and drawing, dramatic play, trucks, dolls, and puppets. Mornings also include a creative project set up and ready for small group involvement. After cleanup, we gather for our welcome circle to talk about the day's events. Snack time is next, followed by recess, sharing, and story time. Each day at sharing children enjoy the chance to show us a particular object, tell a story, or share some special information. Just before lunch we play a variety of circle-time activities involving word games, songs, movement, rhythm, and music. We end the morning with our closing circle, followed by another recess, with pick up at 12:30. Our afternoon program begins at 12:30 and offers opportunities for continued free play, a quiet story/rest time, art activities, snack, and more outdoor play until pick up at 3:00. Each day includes playful activities involving counting, selecting, comparing and contrasting, language, sequencing and patterning, and identifying. Emphasis is always on having fun.

Throughout the year we explore the world around us from the eyes of a preschooler, under the central theme of Who Am I? We choose a variety of art projects, stories, songs, word games, cooking experiences, and more to support and expand this theme. We enjoy regular interaction with the kindergartners and first graders. We take occasional field trips to a variety of local sites. We experience a wide selection of music, rhythm, and movement activities as part of our regular curriculum. We take pride in the celebration of our accomplishments through special events, the presentation of dramatic performances, and the display of our projects for everyone to appreciate.

At The Grammar School preschool, our curriculum is embodied in all the different components of each day. We explore a lively variety of theme ideas. Our schedule balances rest with large and fine-motor skills activities. We enjoy activities that promote social, language, and cognitive development, and the physical design of our space allows children to play comfortably individually, with another playmate, or in larger groups. At TGS preschool, each day offers opportunities for focused attention within an environment of rich and fascinating variety.

SOCIAL CURRICULUM: The Grammar School's youngest students engage in a variety of activities designed to foster healthy social interactions. We explore themes such as friendship, sharing, diversity, personal responsibility, emotions, and caring for others during circle-time occasions, through books and stories, and in music and drama. Our daily rituals (the Job Chart, the Tree of Kindness, Candle Circle, Sharing) promote patience, listening, cooperation and collaboration, problem solving, thoughtful expression, and self-advocacy. Preschoolers actively participate in the resolution of everyday conflicts and the management of their impulses. Our ongoing community service project involves maintaining a food collection box throughout the year that is delivered regularly to a local food shelf.