

Watertown Public Schools

Just Friends Integrated
Preschool Open House



Preschool Mission Statement

Watertown Public School preschool program is strongly committed to providing an enriching environment where all children will experience success and learn at their highest level.

Our preschool program is designed to foster:

- A partnership with parents and community
- A life-long natural curiosity for learning
- Active learning through play based exploration with a balance of child-initiated and teacher selected activities
- Language development and pre-literacy experiences
- Social-emotional competence (developing caring and responsible citizens)
- A confident transition to kindergarten

Information....

- The Integrated Preschool program strives for a 50/50 ratio of students who have special needs and typically developing peer role models.
- The preschool follows the Watertown Public Schools' calendar.
- Classes are 4 days a week Monday through Thursday. Morning session (8:45-11:25)
Afternoon session (12:30-3:10).

Pre-School Team

- Special/Regular Education Early Childhood Certified Teachers
- Trained paraprofessional staff
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- School Psychologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist

Preschool staff interact as *Partners* in children's learning



- facilitating play
- scaffolding learning opportunities
- introducing and embedding enriched language opportunities
- providing social interactions between peers and adults.
- facilitating problem solving strategies and emotional regulation.

Learning Environment

- Space and materials are carefully selected and arranged to promote active learning.
- Children can obtain materials and put them away independently.

Centers

- Block play
- Art activities
- Dramatic play
- Sensory play
- Books
- Puzzles
- Writing Center
- Motor/movement

Consistent Daily Routine

- Following a consistent routine day after day gives children the sense of security they need to be able to make choices and take risks, which opens the door to exciting learning opportunities.
- A consistent daily routine includes...
 - Arrival routine
 - Table Time
 - Circle
 - Story Time
 - Work/Play Time
 - Clean-up
 - Snack Time
 - Small Group
 - Outside/Gross Motor Time
 - Dismissal routine

Preschool Standards

- CT Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) which includes the following domains: social/emotional, cognition, physical/health, language and literacy, creative arts, mathematics, science and social studies.
- CT Early Learning Standards and Development

Curriculums

- **High Scope Approach** - Active Learning Setting. Children learn best through "active participatory learning" which is direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events and ideas.
- **Learning without Tears** - multi-sensory lessons with hands on learning that develop kindergarten readiness skills through play, music, activities and hands on materials.
- **Second Step: Skills for Social and Academic Success.** Develop skills for learning empathy, emotional management and problem solving.

Pre-academic Skills

Language, literacy, writing and math skills are embedded in the daily routine.

For example:

- Print rich environment to encourage beginning reading –recognizing some letters and words (ie: name, familiar words, store names)
- Tools and materials to encourage writing
- Activities and materials to encourage sorting, counting, comparing numbers (ie: one to one correspondence, more/less)
- Small groups activities to introduce specific concepts
- Follow-up materials in play centers to reinforce concepts

Frequently Asked Questions...

- **Do we need to send snack with our child?**
- **No, a healthy nutritious snack will be provided, as well as a milk or water option. *Please make us aware of any dietary restrictions prior to the start of school.**

- **Do they need a backpack?**
- **Yes, please provide a full sized backpack that fits a 1” binder. We will be sending materials back and forth to school.**

- **Does my child need to be toilet trained?**
- **Although being fully toilet trained is not required, we expect that parents are working towards toilet training and we will support that process.**

Virtual Tours

- **Preschool Classroom**

Application

Please fill out the application and send it back to Rose at RizvaniRo@watertownps.org or drop it off at John Trumbull Primary School by 12:00pm on Friday, February 12th.

[Preschool application click here](#)