



# Pre-Kindergarten

## Classroom Program

It is our purpose to offer a Pre-Kindergarten program of the highest standards of quality. We recognize that each child is unique with an individual pattern of growth, level of readiness, personality, learning style, experiences, and family background. Therefore, our program promotes developmentally appropriate practices and provides opportunities for social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development of the whole child. Children are guided to be actively engaged in their own learning, to make choices, to interact with others, to resolve conflicts, and to gain a sense of competence. The Gig Harbor Academy Pre-K believes that children learn best in a class family environment where they feel safe and valued.

## Social-Emotional Development

The Social-Emotional Development of our students is one of the most critical aspects of the Pre-K program. It focuses on individual developments of self-esteem, self-confidence, problem-solving skills, risk taking and building positive character traits.

## Language Arts

**Reading** A central goal during the Pre-K years is to enhance exposure to and concepts about print. Our program offers language development opportunities through daily reading of high quality books, a print-rich environment, exposure to nursery rhymes, poems, and finger plays.

**Writing** In addition, children participate in play that incorporates literacy tools, and receive guidance in the use of language in meaningful ways.

**Speaking** Students learn to develop listening skills and are introduced to alphabet names and sounds, exposure to songs and responsive conversations with individual children and the teachers.

## Math

Children will learn mathematical concepts through formal and informal experiences. Some informal experiences include everyday activities like putting toys away (sorting), comparing building with blocks (reasoning), drawing to record ideas (representing), daily routines, nursery rhymes, reading predictable books (patterns), working puzzles (spatial visualization), etc. Using objects, role-playing, drawing, and counting, children show what they know. Children will count, sort, compare, match, put together, take apart, and measure. Mathematical language will be used in meaningful contexts. The math core curriculum is with Math Connects.

## Science

In Pre-K they will discover the earth, land and water, plants, weather, and animals. They also learn about themselves, nutrition, growth, and how they interact with their environment.

## Social Studies

Children will learn about themselves and their families, about cultures around the world, various holidays, their peers, and how to interact with them, about self-control, and the community where they live.

## Specialists

Gig Harbor Academy provides specialists for all Pre-K classes in Art, Music, Spanish and PE.