



# Preschool

## Classroom Program

The Preschool program at Gig Harbor Academy is an Emergent Curriculum based program. We recognize that each child is unique and has different learning styles. Our program promotes developmentally appropriate practices and provides opportunities for social, emotional, intellectual and physical growth.

Emergent Curriculum allows children to learn as a result of their own doing... through actions, relationships, inquiries, opportunities and repetition. Children express their thoughts and feelings about what they have learned through a variety of mediums such as art, music, language, writing, dance and play. As teachers, we help them learn to ask informative questions and guide them towards the answers, rather than answering the questions for them. We provide an environment where children can play, explore, and develop their own ideas, opinions and understanding of the world. We strive to create beautiful, home like, organized spaces full of a rich variety of learning materials.

## Social-Emotional Development

Cognitive, social emotional, and physical development are all imbedded in our daily program. Our classroom environment is rich with literature and writing opportunities for children. We use hands on approach to teaching language and writing by the use of brainstorming, curriculum webbing, and open ended questions.

In the preschool classroom, we have a strong emphasis on social skill development. Children are encouraged to increase their independence by following daily routines, interacting with peers, and problem solving. Our dramatic play area provides children the opportunity to practice life skills and role playing.

## Language Arts

Literacy is represented many different ways in the classroom by books, clipboards, responsive conversations, narration, songs, and paper for children to document their learning experiences. Children develop listening skills and are introduced to pre-reading concepts, alphabet names and sounds.

## Math

Math concepts are also experienced using hands on approach with the use of manipulative, daily routine, nature materials, puzzles and games. Children practice math concepts in daily routines such as sorting, patterns, representing, reasoning, cooking, spatial, measuring and counting.

## Science

Science is incorporated into daily activities where children will explore and discover water, plants, weather, animals, and nutrition.

## Social Studies

In Social Studies children learn about themselves, their families, different cultures, holidays and the community where they live.

## Specialists

Gig Harbor Academy provides specialists for all preschool classes in Art, Music, and Spanish.

## In Conclusion

We view all children as competent, resourceful individuals who are capable of directing their own learning. Their interests lead them into a project that is researched in depth at a level that they can understand and connect to their world. Thus children are learning what they want to learn with the help of their parents, teachers, and the community; instilling a love for learning that will last a lifetime.