

Introduction to Pre-Kindergarten at Children's Workshop

◆ **My philosophy**

1. My classroom is a caring and comfortable environment.
2. My classroom is an interesting, stimulating and literacy rich environment. Many activities are ideas from stories or songs we have read or sung.
3. My classroom is a place where a child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive areas of development are fostered to grow.
4. My classroom provides a variety of developmentally appropriate activities.
5. My classroom is a place where each child feels loved and respected by teachers and peers.
6. My classroom is a place where each child is welcome at whatever developmental level they are at.
7. My classroom is a place where your child is encouraged to be as independent as possible in taking care of themselves and their things.
8. My classroom is a place where children's love of learning is fostered everyday
9. My classroom provides a partnership with parents, giving them useful feedback and helpful parenting ideas and wisdom.

◆ **Our program is:**

1. Play based. Both purposeful play and pleasurable play.
2. Uses themes every week or two that integrates all areas of learning.
3. Offers a structured environment with choices.
4. Set up in centers (housekeeping, large floor toys, blocks, creation station, manipulatives at the tables, science and math at the tables, and reading.)
5. Is a fun and interesting place to be.

◆ **Preschoolers in our pre-kindergarten classroom have opportunities to:**

1. Play with other children.
2. Develop more physical coordination.
3. Develop their growing language abilities through books, games, songs, science, math and art activities.
4. Count and measure.
5. Participate actively with adults in reading-aloud activities.
6. Explore the alphabet and print and attempt to write messages.
7. Experiment and discover.
8. Develop growing interest in school subjects (science, music, art, and math).
9. Enjoy activities that involve exploring and investigating.
10. Group items that are similar.
11. Use their imaginations.
12. Develop listening and speaking skills. See how reading and writing are both enjoyable and useful.

◆ **My background**

1. BS in elementary education from Western Illinois University.
2. 16 years teaching preschool and 10 years in elementary schools.
3. Master's Degree work in Early Childhood Education at GVSU.