



WINDHAM COOPERATIVE
KINDERGARTEN AND
NURSERY SCHOOL

Developmental Philosophy

Parents are often concerned if their child will be “ready” for the next stage of their educational experience. One of the big advantages of our school offering a developmental curriculum is that the WCK programs are able to help children move forward no matter what stage of development they are currently in.

Social/Emotional Development

We can think of a developmental program as consisting of four basic domains: social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language. The teachers at WCK plan their curriculum to foster growth in each of these domains. Let's take a look at them.

Physical Development

Social/Emotional development is where children learn what behaviors are acceptable in the world in which they live. Research shows that social/emotional readiness is critical to a successful kindergarten transition and to later school success. What is social/emotional readiness? It can be described as confidence, ability to make friends, persistence at tasks and concentration, ability to communicate emotions and have empathy for others' emotions and the ability to listen and be attentive. It also includes the ability to follow rules and routines, and taking turns. These skills are most effectively taught when children are young. Therefore, this is an important focus of our curriculum.

Cognitive Development

Physical development includes both gross motor and fine motor skills. Gross motor control consists of moving the large muscles in the body in a deliberate way. Current brain research shows that moving the body literally wakes the brain up. Fine motor development is using and coordinating the small muscles in the hands and wrists which help children manipulate small objects such as scissors and writing tools. As children gain control over their bodies they become more self-confident and willing to try new and challenging tasks.

Language Development

Cognitive development involves how children think, view the world and use what they've learned. Cognitive development in preschool is addressed by helping children acquire new knowledge through observation and direct experience and make sense of that information. We help children think logically by arranging activities such as sorting, patterning and counting which help them organize their world and gain a better understanding of how it works. Opportunities are given to children to help them think symbolically and representationally through charts, graphs and pictures as well as through dramatic play. This helps children gain a foundation to explore abstract ideas.

Language development helps children learn to understand and communicate through spoken words, and later written words. Growth in this area helps children to gain control of themselves, form meaningful relationships, make sense of their world and gather and store information. Exposure to reading and writing helps children understand the purpose of print and how it works and gaining knowledge of the alphabet, writing letters and words.

The activities and lessons that your children are engaged in at WCK are designed to create a strong foundation that will enable them to be confident, successful life long learners.

Information compiled from Creative Curriculum



Parents and Teachers
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