

# PRE-NURSERY

The Pre-Nursery program offers a nurturing, developmentally appropriate program for the youngest members of the East Woods community. The Pre-Nursery curriculum is based on a thematic approach. Classroom activities such as craft projects, science explorations, and read-alouds are all based around a central idea. This integrated approach to teaching and learning helps young children to delve into topics and learn about the world through hands-on experiences. Teachers use a wide variety of materials, games, and activities to teach children socialization and oral language skills. Foundational literacy and math skills are also woven into the program, and children are introduced to skills such as letter recognition and counting. There is a balanced focus on developing the children's cognitive skills and their social-emotional skills. Through modeling and classroom experiences, the children begin to learn how to share materials, take turns, express their feelings, and be a good friend.

## Class Size and Communication with Parents

With a 4:1 student-teacher ratio, the Pre-Nursery teachers provide individualized attention to each child. Students are able to work at their own pace, and the teachers modify the curriculum to meet the needs of each child. Teachers and parents foster strong, positive home-school connections. The Pre-Nursery teachers communicate frequently with parents both in person and via email. The teachers see parents on a daily basis during drop-off and pick-up, which is a good time for short, informal conversations. Parent-teacher conferences are held in the spring which include write-ups of student progress.

## Program Hours

The Pre-Nursery program runs Monday-Friday from 8am -12pm. In the beginning of the year, the children start with a shortened schedule in order to ease them into the program. The children do

not need to be potty-trained, and parents can choose to enroll their children in the program two, three, four, or five days per week.



## Schedule

The daily schedule provides structure for our Pre-Nursery students. There is a purposeful mix of whole group activities, small group activities, and time for independent exploration and play. The predictable routines give the children a sense of security, and they look forward to each part of their day.

### HERE IS A TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

8:00AM.....	ARRIVAL
8:00-9:00AM.....	FREE PLAY
9:00-9:40AM.....	RECESS
9:40-10:00AM.....	SPECIAL CLASSES (MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION)
10:00-10:30AM.....	SNACK TIME
10:30-11:30AM.....	PROJECTS
11:30-12:00PM.....	CIRCLE TIME
12:00PM.....	DISMISSAL

## Special Classes: Physical Education

The Pre-Nursery students go to Physical Education class three times per week for twenty minutes. In Physical Education classes, the children participate in activities that help them develop body awareness and motor skills in addition to developing their manipulative skills. They also begin to learn how to take turns and share equipment.

## Music

Pre-Nursery students attend Music class three times per week. During class, simple songs, ball-rolling activities, fingerplays, and SongTales taken directly from the First Steps in Music curriculum



are used to begin the development of tuneful, artful, beautiful children. Pre-Nursery students work on expressiveness and coordination using scarves, ribbons, and beanbags as well as exploring rhythm through using shakers, jingle bells, sandblocks, and rhythm sticks to accompany songs, chants, and stories.