



## Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten

We work hard to provide experiences and opportunities for each child which foster a developing love, respect, and a sense of responsibility for:

**Oneself.**  
**Others.**  
**Learning.**  
**Our World.**  
**The Future.**

### **We believe in the importance of parents as partners!**

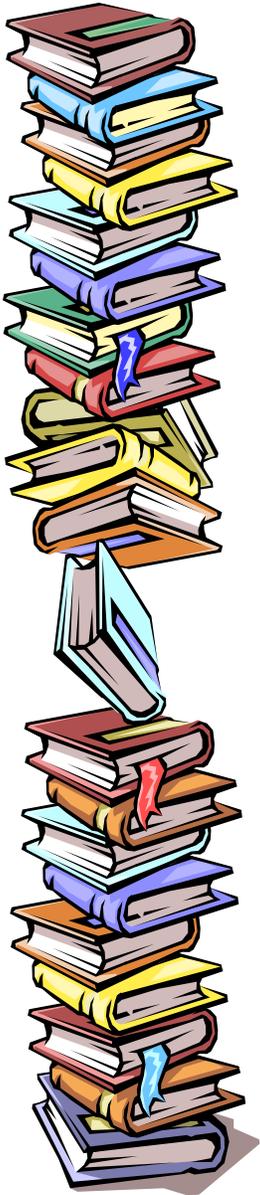
Early Childhood is the most critical period in human growth and development, for it is the period when the foundation for learning is laid. During these early years, learning experiences for children must be diverse, creative, and carefully planned based on sound principles of child development. In keeping with this philosophy, Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten provides an environment where children can:

- ❖ **Grow and develop at their own rate.** No two children develop in the same way, at the same time, or in the same sequence. Children need to be with teachers who understand their individual developmental needs and who will provide challenging and supportive experiences.
- ❖ **Develop a positive self-image.** A positive self-image enables a child to participate easily and successfully in a learning environment and provides a framework for personal development that continues throughout the child's lifetime.

- ❖ **Learn to handle their emotions in an appropriate way.**

Young children have strong feelings that often confuse them and are often beyond their control.

- ❖ **Act on their environment.** Children need to explore, question, practice, and pretend in order to discover the world around them. Play is the work of childhood. The learning process is lifelong, and it begins best when children can choose a variety of activities that challenge and interest them within a safe environment.



- ❖ **Develop a sense of personal responsibility.** When children are given the opportunity to make choices and solve problems, they grow in knowledge of how the world operates and how they can function in it. Within a secure environment, children learn that their actions and behaviors have consequences for themselves and those around them.
- ❖ **Learn to trust and care about those around them.** Children need loving attention. They need to be with caring teachers who are consistent in how they react to a child's behavior. Through these relationships, children develop the ability to give and receive affection and understanding, while learning to trust themselves and those around them.

### **Our Goals at Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten**

- ❖ **To Grow in independence:** To help children learn to do things for themselves and to make decisions and choices.
- ❖ **To learn to give, share, and receive affection:** We call that trust or bonding, and it calls for consistent and respectful caregivers.
- ❖ **To learn to get along with others:** A child learns what works in groups, what taking turns means, what thinking about others means.
- ❖ **To develop self-control and self-discipline:** Recent research shows a strong relationship between outcome as adolescents and adults and the experience of making choices in the early childhood years.
- ❖ **To learn non-sexist human roles:** Avoiding gender stereotypes is an important aspect of self-concept and self esteem. To learn non-sexist human values means we help boys and girls to be competent in both the kitchen and the car.
- ❖ **To begin to understand their bodies:** Good health practices, hygiene, and nutrition are a basic aspect of the preschool experience.
- ❖ **To learn and practice large and small motor skills:** It's the best time to start those lifelong good habits and joys!
- ❖ **To begin to understand the physical world:** We want children to be responsible to the world around them, to have an understanding of cause/effect, to be able to reason, to be curious, to find and use information.

- ❖ **To foster the development of language, both listening and speaking:** The children who have lots of perceptual and sensing experiences and good adult language partners develop a richer vocabulary, more expressive language, and a great skill in communication.
- ❖ **To develop a positive feeling about their relationship to the world:** To be having a *fine* time, to be feeling good about themselves and their experiences, and to be involved in the age-appropriate, fulfilling daily happenings at a “Child-Centered” school.

