

West Allegheny Preschool Philosophy:

When teaching preschool age children, it is necessary to focus on the whole child; his/her social and emotional self as well as a thinking and physical being, as all aspects develop together. Children must feel safe and comfortable in their environment in order for learning to occur.

Children learn by exploring developmentally appropriate items and experiences. They are motivated by their own curiosity stemming from an environment full of learning opportunities. Through hands-on exploration in such an environment guided by intentional and skillful teacher interactions, children create their own knowledge by questioning and challenging themselves to find the answers. Initiative, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking skills are encouraged through this process.

These are skills children will need to sort and make sense of the information they will receive in the future. Teaching children to learn and encouraging a positive attitude toward learning will increase the likelihood of school success and lifelong learning.

Our daily schedule allows the children to participate in a variety of activities that support our philosophy.

3 year-olds *AM only

Arrival

Circle time

Story/Game

Free choice**

Snack (provided by the school)

Lessons:

M – Literacy

T – Math

Th – Large motor

Closing

4 year-olds

Arrival

Circle time

Project activity*

Free choice**

Snack (provided by the school)

Lessons:

M – Literacy/Letter

T – Math

Th – Targeted learning

Closing

*Project activity – children will be involved with 2 week mini-projects based on seasons, events, and class interests

**Free choice – children can follow interests in learning centers (art, sensory, dramatic play, blocks, writing ctr, games, science)