

Teaching Our Youngest Scholars



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“As preschool teachers and child care providers, you have both the wonderful opportunity and the important responsibility to teach and nurture our youngest children. The years from birth through age five are a time of extraordinary growth and change. It is in these years that children develop the basic knowledge, understanding, and interests they need to reach the goal of being successful learners, readers, and writers. All young children deserve experiences that will help them to achieve this goal.”

Before School Begins...

**School Preview/Visit
Days**

**“Count Down to
Kindergarten”**

Home Visits

Assessments

Family Gathering



Stories from the Classroom



A Teacher's Observations

Children who have attended high quality programs are generally better prepared for Kindergarten! These programs benefit children's learning and development. They are more likely to start school ready to learn and have the solid foundation necessary for school success.



A Tale of Two Children



Social/Emotional

- More emotionally secure and self confident
- Self help skills and responsibility
- Taking turns, problem solving, sharing and helping friends
- Join in activities and build trusting relationships with peers and adults
- Offer apologies and have basic manners
- Compassion and empathy



Structure

- Classroom space and routines
 - Group activities
 - Focus attention on teacher
- Listen while others are speaking
 - Wait their turn to speak



Language/Cognitive Skills

- Expressive language
- Recognize and understand more words
 - Use a richer and broader vocabulary
- Observant, ask questions, test ideas and solve problems
- Imagination fuels learning!



Academic

- Listening comprehension
- Early literacy, pre-reading skills
- Stronger basic math skills
 - Fine motor skills
- Learn best through doing



Ready for Kindergarten



- Enthusiasm toward learning
- Solid oral language skills
- Ability to play well with others
- Ability to listen
- Basic fine motor skills
- Basic letter and number recognition