



West Linn-Wilsonville Schools

**Educational
Program**

PRESCHOOL

**Skills, Concepts and Processes
for Learning**

Revised July 2002

The Child as a Learner and Member of the Community

PRESCHOOL

This preschool curriculum develops a composite picture of early childhood learning experiences which are fundamental to young children's construction of knowledge. It defines the concepts and relationships children are striving to understand. These experiences take place repeatedly over an extended period of time and occur in active learning settings in which children have opportunities to:

- Make choices and decisions
- Manipulate materials
- Interact with peers and adults
- Reflect on ideas and actions
- Use language in personally meaningful ways

Cognitive Development

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To acquire learning and problem solving skills:

- Demonstrate an interest in exploring
- Ask and respond to questions
- Show curiosity and a desire to learn
- Use planning skills
- Observe and make discoveries
- Find more than one solution to a problem
- Apply information and experience to a new context
- Use creativity and imagination
- Persist in tasks
- Gain an awareness of sources for answers/solutions
- Use all senses in learning

To expand logical thinking skills:

- Classify objects by similarities, differences, and attributes
- Put together objects that belong together
- Recall a sequence of events (e.g., first, second, last)
- Arrange objects in a series (e.g., smallest to largest)
- Recognize patterns and be able to repeat them
- Increase awareness of cause-and-effect relationships
- Create and interpret graphs
- Describe characteristics something does/does not possess or to what class it does/does not belong

To acquire concepts and information leading to a fuller understanding of the immediate world:

- Demonstrate an awareness of time concepts (e.g., yesterday, today)
- Experience, compare and describe rates of movement and time intervals
- Identify names of objects and events
- Make comparisons (e.g., more/less, larger/smaller, taller/shorter, some/all)
- Use words to describe the characteristics of objects in several ways (e.g., colors, shapes)
- Identify the roles people play in society
- Identify relationships of objects in space (below, inside, under)
- Count in correct sequence and match one-to-one
- Experiment with space (e.g., filling/emptying, fitting objects together/taking apart, changing the shape and arrangement of objects)
- Experience and describe positions, directions, and distances outdoors, in the classroom and in the school
- Interpret spatial relations in drawings, pictures, and photographs

To expand verbal communications skills:

- Talk with others about personally meaningful experiences
- Describe objects, events, and relationships
- Use words to explain ideas and feelings
- Play with language: listen to stories and poems, and make up stories and rhymes
- Recall words in song or finger play
- Follow simple directions
- Talk with other children during daily activities
- Dictate stories
- Participate in group discussions, take turns in group conversations

To develop beginning reading skills:

- Acquire a love of books
- Hear a story and interpret meaning through dramatization, story retellings, and discussions
- Predict outcomes
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to use books (e.g., turning pages)
- Recognize pictures and text on a page
- Participate in reading in various ways: reading storybooks, signs and symbols, one's own writing

To acquire beginning writing skills:

- Make increasingly representational drawings
- Imitate or trace recognizable letters and numbers
- Recognize written names and write own name
- Demonstrate an interest in using writing for a purpose (e.g., making signs, sending letters)

To express and understand ideas through creative representation:

- Identify and describe shapes, lines, and colors in the environment and in works of art
- Recognize objects by sight, sound, touch, taste and smell
- Imitate actions and sounds
- Relate models, pictures and photographs to real places and things
- Pretend and role play
- Make models out of clay, blocks and other materials
- Draw and paint

To experience music and movement:

- Explore and identify sounds
- Explore the singing voice
- Sing songs
- Play simple musical instruments
- Feel and express steady beat
- Move in sequence to a common beat
- Move to music
- Act upon movement directions
- Describe movement
- Express creativity in movement

To use technology to aid learning:

- Become acquainted with and learn to care for and operate technology in the school and classroom (e.g., computer, calculators, tape player, listening center)

Social Development

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To experience a sense of self-esteem:

- Identify oneself as a member of a specific family and cultural group
- Feel proud of personal heritage and background
- Demonstrate confidence in one's growing abilities
- Demonstrate increasing independence
- Make and express choices, plans and decisions
- Begin to take ownership and pride in behavior and learning choices
- Be a contributing member of one's group and environment

To exhibit a positive and thoughtful attitude toward learning:

- Demonstrate interest and participate in classroom activities
- Participate in routine activities easily
- Sustain play
- Develop an awareness of and a respect for learning environments both indoors and out
- Practice consideration in use and consumption of learning materials

To demonstrate cooperative, pro-social behavior:

- Build relationships with children and adults
- Share ideas, knowledge, and materials
- Create and experience collaborative play
- Respect the ideas, belongings and rights of others
- Express feelings in words
- Work collectively to maintain a supportive and safe learning environment
- Resolve conflict constructively, participate and contribute to the problem solving process
- Respect differences and similarities between people
- Develop comfortable, empathetic and just interaction with diversity
- Attend to non-verbal messages
- Work cooperatively with others on completing a task
- Develop the skills and critical thinking needed to protect oneself and others from injustice

Physical Development

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To enhance gross motor skills:

- Use gross motor skills with confidence
- Run with increasing control over direction and speed
- Jump over or from objects without falling
- Use large muscles for balance (e.g., walk on tiptoe, balance on one foot)
- Catch a ball or bean bag
- Throw an object in the intended direction
- Climb up or down equipment without falling

To enhance and refine small motor skills:

- Coordinate eye and hand movement (e.g., completing puzzles)
- Use small muscles to complete tasks (e.g., building, stringing, cutting)
- Use small muscles for self-help skills (e.g., pouring, zipping)
- Use writing and drawing tools with increasing control and intention

Health and Safety

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To begin developing safe and healthy habits:

- Identify safe and healthy choices and situations
- Demonstrate fire, earthquake, bus and pedestrian safety
- Deal safely with germs, injuries and body fluids

Portions of this document were originally published in the following works:

- Dodge, Diane Trister, and Laura J. Colker, *The Creative Curriculum for Early Childhood, 3rd Edition*, Washington, DC, Teaching Strategies, 1995.
- Hohmann, Mary and David PI Weikart, *Educating Young Children*, Ypsilanti, MI, High/Scope Press, 1995.

West Linn-Wilsonville Schools

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Boeckman Creek Primary School 503-673-7750
6700 SW Wilsonville Road; Wilsonville, OR 97070

Bolton Primary School 503-673-7050
5933 SW Holmes Street; West Linn, OR 97068

Boones Ferry Primary School 503-673-7300
11495 SW Wilsonville Road; Wilsonville, OR 97070

Cedaroak Park Primary School 503-673-7100
4515 S. Cedaroak Drive; West Linn, OR 97068

Stafford Primary School 503-673-7150
19875 SW Stafford Road; West Linn, OR 97068

Sunset Primary School 503-673-7200
2351 Oxford Street; West Linn, OR 97068

Willamette Primary School 503-673-7250
1403 12th Street; West Linn, OR 97068

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Athey Creek Middle School 503-673-7400
2900 SW Borland Road; West Linn, OR 97068

Rosemont Ridge Middle School 503-673-7550
20001 Salamo Road; West Linn, OR 97068

Inza Wood Middle School 503-673-7500
11055 SW Wilsonville Road; Wilsonville, OR 97070

HIGH SCHOOLS

West Linn High School 503-673-7800
5464 West "A" Street; West Linn, OR 97068

Wilsonville High School 503-673-7600
6800 SW Wilsonville Road; Wilsonville, OR 97070