

The Nursery curriculum is an interdisciplinary program that integrates language arts, math, science, art, music, fine and gross motor skills and addresses multiple intelligences.

The integrated thematic units are designed to help children develop their individual learning styles while providing opportunities for creativity and growth. The curriculum allows for flexibility and thematic units may vary from year to year, depending on the needs and interests of all of our students. 🐾

Broad Theme Examples

- Social and emotional skills
- Self-help and self-awareness skills
- Early language and literacy skills
- Emergent math skills
- Motor skills
- Music and creative arts

Integrated Curriculum Unit Examples

- Colors, numbers, shapes
- Children's natural environments; Culture, holidays, cooking, weather, seasons, health and safety, 5 senses
- Bears
- City; construction and transportation
- Farm



- 93 North/South to Exit 3
- Follow Route 111 (East) towards No. Salem
- Left at lights onto Lamson Road
- First right onto Industrial Drive
- WCK is located on the left



Windham Cooperative
Kindergarten & Nursery School

Parents and Teachers
In Partnership since 1966



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NURSERY CURRICULUM

Learning Objectives

The **WCK Nursery curriculum** is based on developmentally appropriate practice, which is grounded in research on child development and learning, and in the knowledge base regarding educational effectiveness; how children develop and learn at various ages and what approaches and conditions work best for them.

Nursery class is often a child's first school experience, and as such, our primary goal is to foster positive social relationships and a sense of self-confidence in learning.

Children enter the Nursery program within a wide variety of ages, experience and abilities. Our goal is to meet the children where they are and move them forward at their own developmental level.

Children discover, explore and learn through an integrated approach. Activities are designed to focus on skills in language arts, math, art, science and social studies, with learning expectations and acquired skill objectives. 🖐️

Social Emotional Growth

Children develop socially and emotionally through the process of discovering a sense of self. The classroom environment, learning opportunities and daily routines are designed to help children:

- Adjust to new situations
- Demonstrate appropriate trust in adults
- Engage with other children in play
- Follow classroom routines and rules
- Respect self, others and materials
- Recognize and manage feelings
- Demonstrate self-reliance and independence
- Resolve conflicts appropriately

Cognitive Development

Cognitive development is the construction of thought processes, including remembering, problem solving, and decision-making; how a person perceives, thinks, and gains understanding of the world. Areas of cognitive development are information processing, intelligence, reasoning, language development and memory.

Nursery curriculum addresses cognitive development with activities such as:

- Sorting, matching, classifying, comparing, patterning, seriation
- Observing with curiosity
- Exploring cause and effect
- Using numbers, counting, 1:1 correspondence
- Taking on pretend roles and situations
- Make believe with objects
- Making and interpreting representations
- Time and space concepts
- Situations that encourage persistence

Fine Motor Development

Fine motor skills are the coordination of small muscle movements controlling the hand, fingers, and thumb. The development of these skills allows one to be able to complete tasks such as writing, drawing, and buttoning.

Nursery curriculum objectives address control of hand movements and eye-hand coordination through activities such as:

- Finger plays
- Using school tools
- Sorting, puzzles and small manipulatives
- Practicing writing in various ways

Gross Motor Development

Gross motor skills involve the large muscles of the body that enable such functions as walking, maintaining balance, coordination, jumping, reaching, kicking, sitting upright, lifting, and throwing. Gross motor skills depend on both muscle tone and strength. Indoor and outdoor play and music activities encourage children to develop motor skills by:

- Balancing while moving
- Clapping hands; stomping feet
- Moving body parts to music and rhymes
- Running, hopping, climbing, throwing/catching

Language Development

Language development is the process by which children come to understand and communicate, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Language acquisition and development is an essential component of the Nursery curriculum. Circle time activities, music activities, story time and daily classroom routines, planned activities and self-directed play provide opportunities for children to acquire, expand, and reinforce their language skills; including opportunities to:

- Hear and discriminate the sounds of language
- Ask and answer questions
- Express thoughts and emotions
- Participate in conversations and discussions
- Understand and follow verbal directions
- Enjoy and value reading
- Comprehend stories, themes and characters
- Demonstrate understanding of print concepts, alphabet, and the purpose of writing
- Write letters and numbers

Student's skills are periodically evaluated, and progress reports are issued twice a year.

Parent teacher conferences are held in January and by request.