

# WALDORF EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM

---

Our Early Childhood program is based on the understanding that young children learn primarily through imitation and play. Our experienced faculty focus on fostering the small child's imagination, creativity, and the will to focus and follow through on difficult tasks. This is done through storytelling, music, modeling of chores, outdoor play, and artistic activities. Early academic foundations are formed through these activities.

## CORE ACTIVITIES

Academic capacities are being developed in Waldorf Early Childhood programs, but they are not developed through traditional academic activities such as memorization, homework, or worksheets. The emphasis is on developing skills through the hands-on experiences listed below.

## CREATIVE UNSTRUCTURED PLAY

While children play together with a wide variety of open ended toys they are also developing... imagination, social skills, problem solving capacity, and the ability to carry tasks to completion.

## STORY AND MOVEMENT

Learning song and verse with movement deeply engages ... auditory processing, memory and attention, spatial awareness, large and small motor development, and phonics and literacy learning.

## DAILY ARTISTIC ACTIVITY

Wet-on wet water coloring, woodworking, beeswax modeling, crayon work and sewing/finger knitting develop... creativity, motor / visual learning, focus, eye tracking, patterned thinking, and perseverance.

## MODELING COOKING AND CHORES

Being an essential part of the community is key to the developing child. While helping in class they are learning to ... follow multi-step directions, mentor peers, count and sort, and take personal responsibility.

## OUTDOOR UNSTRUCTURED PLAY

Children who are free to experience the large outdoor world in all seasons build... proprioception and vestibular systems, critical thinking and cooperation skills, large motor skills, and a love of nature.

