

# Preschool

Berkshire Country Day School

*Where you belong.*



Berkshire Country Day School's Preschool program is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach and provides a nurturing educational environment that offers a child-centered curriculum to support each child's learning style and developmental readiness. Our experienced and talented teachers cultivate and encourage each child's development through experiences that foster their passion for learning. Children are encouraged to explore, play, take risks, listen, and find their voices in creative and expressive ways.

- A nurturing and stimulating educational environment for young children.
- Child-centered curriculum supports each child's learning style and developmental readiness.
- Experienced and talented teachers encourage each child's development through experiences that foster their passion for learning.
- Specialty teachers lead classes in French, music, library, and physical education.
- Children gain confidence, adapt to group experiences, learn to respect others, find their voices, and become life-long learners.
- Twenty-seven-acre campus provides ready access to the outdoors.
- Children develop as learners and practice social skills making the transition between home and school.
- Extensive parent and teacher communications, including frequent blog posts, student profile reports, and parent-teacher conferences keep parents and guardians informed and involved as partners in the learning process. The lines of communication are always open between home and school.
- Peer Reading program with Lower School partners models and encourages reading in a healthy, social context.
- Extended-Day Program available until 5:30 p.m.
- Variety of enrollment options available.

## Preschool Program Highlights

- Literacy skills progress through exposure to literature, storytelling, songs, reflective listening, and class meetings. This work develops a rich base in expressive and receptive language.
- Early math concepts are explored through hands-on use of materials such as manipulatives, puzzles and blocks to promote the understanding of concepts, patterning, sequencing, sorting, comparing, and spatial relationships.
- Children are introduced to the science process by engaging in concrete activities such as observing plants grow, caring for animals, following the weather, and researching at the pond.
- The social studies curriculum emphasizes knowledge of the students' families, communities, and the world around them. This understanding empowers students to feel connected and confident in school and in life.
- French is introduced through songs, stories, games, and play.
- Children are helped to express themselves and build vocabulary by being read to, looking at books, and conversing during circle and activity times.
- The natural world is an extension of the classroom and used throughout the day to connect play and learning. Students use the pond and the miles of hiking trails as well as using found, natural materials in classroom projects.
- Students share their different backgrounds, look at holiday traditions, explore a variety of cultural and ethnic cooking activities, read stories, and listen to music, discovering the many wonderful differences and common threads that bind individuals together.
- Children sing, dance, play rhythm instruments, and act out stories during music class and listen to music from all over the world.
- Social skills and cooperation are nurtured and developed through purposeful work and play.
- Imagination is encouraged in art and project-based activities; students have opportunities to be creative every day, using a variety of materials.