



Early Childhood

preschool & kindergarten

Waldorf education begins in early childhood with a strong emphasis on play, which develops a child's capacity to learn, laying the foundation for later academic success. Before age seven, children need to exercise both their bodies and their imaginations if they are to truly thrive in school later on. A curriculum that includes cooking, baking, hiking, outdoor play, building, art, music, and storytelling offers young children just what they love and need to grow. We offer this in a warm, nurturing, home-like, play-based learning space.

Waldorf education strives to preserve a sense of wonder in young children. Waldorf education builds a foundation for future success while protecting young children from early academic pressure. Direct, hands-on experiences, beautiful surroundings, storytelling, puppetry, and the natural world inspire children's interests. A sense of wonder drives curiosity and leads to enthusiasm for learning.

The ability to imagine is the foundation for later understanding of abstract concepts. Simple toys allow children's imaginations to flourish. Playing with open-ended toys such as colored silks, wooden blocks, simple dolls, and natural materials like pine cones and shells allows the expression of a child's inner imagination. Through play children exercise and consolidate their abilities to understand, think, and concentrate. Creative play supports physical, emotional, and social development and allows children to learn through investigation, exploration, and discovery. Imaginative play encourages children to become inventive, curious, and adaptable.

Our Waldorf early childhood program honors and fosters the relationship between the child and the natural world. Time spent in natural surroundings instills a sense of peace and is essential to the emotional health of children and to their sense of connection to the wider world. Nature play lays the foundation for sciences in grade school. Children enjoy weekly hikes and daily opportunities to freely explore and experience nature, with at least two opportunities to play outdoors every day in all but the most severe weather in our organic gardens, prairie, and large, grassy play yard.

Da Vinci Waldorf School

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