

Washington School for the Deaf Preschool Program Description

The preschool program at Washington School for the Deaf is an American Sign Language (ASL) and English bilingual program. WSD's preschool incorporates research-based methodologies that meet the needs of Deaf and hard of hearing children ages 3-5. Children are engaged in play-based learning experiences to support critical thinking skills with adults who are fluent in both ASL and English. The curriculum of the classroom incorporates thematic instruction for focused studies that fosters and supports skills in all areas of development: language/communication; social/emotional; cognitive; and fine/gross motor. The preschool has as its guide the following:

- The Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines;
- The Visual Communication and Sign Language Checklist
- Brigance Inventory of Early Development III

Deaf children, CODAs and Siblings of Deaf Children will benefit from the rich learning environment of:

- The bilingual environment of American Sign Language (ASL) and English
- Visual learning environment
- Social interactions with peers
- Cultural rituals and activities i.e. ASL rhythm/rhyme songs and stories
- Interactive learning and language modeling opportunities through creative play activities
- Daily literacy activities that include read-aloud (sign language), language experience activities, and bilingual strategies to learn the ABCs and target words in both languages as well as fingerspelling.

Our class has signed up to use Seesaw: the Learning Journal, which is a classroom app that is family friendly and allows us to document our daily learning process. Families have raved about this app, because they feel that a) they can have a "peek" into the classroom, b) see what we are doing with explanations from me on the specific skills we are working on, and c) to have a visual tool to share with their child and expand conversational opportunities at home. This app tool is private; only current families have access to the virtual classroom.

Schedule:

MONDAYS-THURSDAYS

- 8:00-8:30 FREE PLAY/SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES
- 8:30-9:00 CIRCLE TIME
- 9:00-9:15 READ ALOUD
- 9:15-9:30 LANGUAGE CENTERS (ASL AND ENGLISH)
- 9:30-9:50 RECESS
- 9:55-10:10 SNACK
- 10:10-10:30 CENTERS
- 10:30-10:40 GROUP GAME
- 10:45-11:00 FREE PLAY
- 11:15-11:45 LUNCH
- 11:45-12:00 QUIET READING
- 12:00-1:00 NAP/QUIET TIME
- 1:10-1:20 SENSORY ACTIVITY (WAKE UP THE BRAIN)
- 1:20-1:50 GROSS MOTOR TIME
- 1:50-2:00 SNACK
- 2:00-2:30 CENTERS- SCIENCE EXPLORATION/MATH
- 2:30-2:40 GROUP GAME
- 2:40-2:50 FREE PLAY
- 3:00 BUS OR PARENT PICK UP

FRIDAYS: HOME VISITS AND BIRTH-3 PLAYGROUP