

# The Early Years Matter

## High-Quality Early Childhood Education Makes a Difference

Studies show that almost 90% of a child's brain is developed by the age of five.

During these critical early years, children develop the capacity to become intellectually curious and creative thinkers. Making the most of these early years and ensuring that a child develops to his or her fullest potential is challenging for any parent. Enrollment in a carefully designed educational program at a young age is an important investment in your child's future that lasts a lifetime.

The benefits of early childhood education are well-documented ~ including better probabilities of a college education and higher employment earnings. However, not all programs are the same. High-quality early childhood programs are characterized by a robust curriculum, experiential learning, and small classes led by exceptionally well-trained teachers.

A **robust curriculum** is vital for helping children develop to their fullest potential cognitively, socially and emotionally. At Moorestown Friends School, children in our early childhood program experience well-articulated literacy, mathematics, and handwriting programs as well as our Examined Life program that helps students develop resilience, critical thinking, and ethical behavior. Additionally, kids experience a wide variety of classes in Music, Art, Spanish, Physical Education, and Library taught by specialists in those fields. Having a full-day option in Preschool, as well as a full-day program in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten, affords our students the time needed to take full advantage of all that the MFS curriculum has to offer.

**Experiential learning** allows students to learn from their own experiences and ensures that children get the most out of the robust curriculum. At Moorestown Friends School, learning is hands on and teachers connect the curriculum to students' interests and curiosities ~ crucial for students to fully understand and remember what they have learned (whether in reading, math, or another subject area). Kids at MFS learn information in meaningful contexts not only to increase their understanding, but also to stimulate their motivation to learn more.

In order to ensure each child is supported and challenged, **small class sizes** with low teacher to student ratios are critical. At Moorestown Friends School every classroom from preschool *through* first grade has a full-time teacher and an assistant.

Exceptionally **well-trained teachers** are a hallmark of any high-quality early childhood program. Not only do most teachers at MFS hold advanced degrees, but teachers are life-long learners, attending seminars, workshops, and conferences in places from Chicago to New York to Reggio Emilia, Italy. Additionally, MFS teachers meet weekly to share best practices, discuss children's learning and development, and plan learning experiences.

Brain growth, literacy skills, and thinking skills are all shaped by what does - or does not - happen in a child's early years. Families can make the most of the early years by enrolling their children in a high-quality early childhood program like the one at Moorestown Friends School.

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Moorestown Friends School  
*Celebrating 225 years*