

The Preschool Program

At a Glance

Moorestown Friends School's twin pillars of academic rigor and spiritual and ethical development come to life each day for our Preschool (age 3) students. In small classes students participate in an integrated program of language arts, mathematics, social studies and science organized around diverse themes and student-initiated investigations. Learning is hands-on; subjects come alive as students read, write, ask questions, interview experts, conduct experiments, take field trips and share their learning. Students are taught to think critically: to gather complete information, be precise, develop a plan when solving a problem, and shift strategies when needed. Engagement in visual arts, music, physical education, computers, library use, and Spanish complement the academic program.

The Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship are an integral part of every grade and every classroom. Teachers support students in the use of peaceful conflict resolution and peer mediation. Service learning projects take place throughout the year and are both student- and school-initiated.

Through our commitment to academic rigor and spiritual and ethical development, Moorestown Friends Lower School strives to help students develop tough minds and tender hearts.

Program Features

- Full Day and Half Day Option
- Five, Three, and Two Day a Week Options
- Small Class Sizes
- Never More Than a 1:7 Teacher Student Ratio
- Early Care (beginning 7:15) and After Care (through 5:45)



Specials

- Spanish
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Library
- Quaker Education



A Typical Day's Schedule

Arrival/Table Activities (7:55 to 8:30) Children choose an activity that may include an art experience, small group game or table manipulative. A limited number of activities are offered to enable each preschooler to make a calm transition into our program. It also allows time for the teacher to speak individually with each child and their parent.

Morning Meeting (8:30 to 8:50) The children begin with a good morning song and a welcome handshake for their friends and teachers. During this time we discuss the day's schedule and note any special event that may be occurring, such as a classmate's birthday. The person of the day is introduced, as is the child who has brought snack for the day. Themes are discussed and the children's observations are recorded. Investigations may develop during this time. Learning center activities are presented to help each child plan their morning.

Center Investigations (8:50 to 9:50) Various learning experiences are presented in the areas of language arts, math, art and science. These activities may be theme-related or an extension of the group's interest. During center time the teacher is able to work with a small group of children or with an individual child. Mid-morning snack also occurs during this time.

Outside Play (10:15 to 11:00) Climbing equipment, swings, slides, and the sandbox provide opportunities for developing gross motor skills.

Special Area Class (11:00 to 11:30)

Story Time / Movement Activities (11:30 to 11:40)

Transition Meeting (11:40 to 12:00) The morning is reviewed and the teacher previews a few of the next day's activities. Our peace song is sung, and we say goodbye to the children who will be leaving at noon.

Lunch (12:00 to 12:30) Lunch provides a relaxing social time as well as the opportunity to practice table manners and self-help skills.

Book Exploration and Storytime (12:30 to 1:00)

Rest (1:00 to 2:30) After lunch the children move to the rug area while their teachers prepare the classroom for rest time. The preschoolers may look at books or quietly play with manipulatives. A story on tape may be presented and later added to the listening center. A teacher checks on each child to make sure they are comfortable on their cot. The children may select a book and relaxing music is played. At 2:15 a quiet cot toy is provided.

Closing Meeting (2:45 to 3:00) We highlight the events of the day and talk a little about what we will do tomorrow. The children end their day with a song and a good-bye handshake for friends and teachers.

Dismissal (3:00) Car line or extended day.

Special Events

All-School Picnic (September)

All-School Thanksgiving Happening

Winter Concert

Arts & Literature Week

Spring Musical

Family Service Day

Grandparents Day

End-of-Year Family Party