



A DAY IN BEGINDERGARTEN

- In Begindergarten, we focus first on inspiring a love of learning.
- We recognize the natural variation in children's development, and that progress is unique to each child, building upon what children know and their curiosity.
- We focus on social/emotional development, speech and language, large and fine motor skills, and encourage creativity and problem solving, as well as academics.
- In our Begindergarten classroom, you will see:
 - A smaller classroom size, maximum of 16 students
 - A highly qualified teacher and part time ed-tech assistance
 - Children engaged in hands-on, center-based activities.
 - Learning through science, literature, songs, poetry, play and games.
 - Children working on hand strengthening activities and cutting. We make letters and numbers out of clay, Legos, shaving cream, tracing and sky writing.
 - Children throwing, catching, hopping, skipping, jumping and swinging.
 - Lots of talk and movement within a planned and structured daily schedule.
- We move at a slower pace than Kindergarten and use the High Scope Curriculum.
- We have a shortened length of activities, which increases as the school year progresses.
- We are happy to have more time for both inside and outside play.
- As children play, they learn how to follow directions and routines and build language.
- We have one-half hour of rest time in the afternoon.
- We do incorporate numeral and letter recognition, as well as letter sound connections.
- We follow the Maine Early Learning and Development Standards.

Students may be considered for begindergarten when the following are part of the child's profile:

- a. A birth date between August 1 to October 14
- b. Kindergarten screening results indicate need
- c. Preschool recommendation
- d. Parent interest letter is received by May 30th

In addition, gender balance will be considered and the class size will be capped at 12 students in August to allow for movement and flexibility with class placements in the remaining four spots.

"Childhood is a journey, not a race."

Stated by, National Association of the Young Child.