



Saint Peter Public Schools Early Childhood Program Profile

Saint Peter Early Childhood encompasses various programs serving children from birth to kindergarten entrance and their families. Programs include Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), School Readiness and Early Childhood Special Education for children Birth-3 and 3-kindergarten entrance.

The foundation of the Saint Peter Early Childhood program is focused on a child-centered approach to learning. This child-centered approach is experience-rich and grounded in purposeful play, exploration and academic and social-emotional readiness. During the pre-school day there is a balance of structured and unstructured periods. Teachers use a center-based approach in the classroom to provide self-directed learning opportunities and encourage creativity and collaboration. All of the early childhood programs within the school district use state approved curriculums to guide teaching, learning and assessment.

Recognizing the importance of multi-sensory approaches to learning, there are many opportunities in our early childhood program for young children to experience music, large motor activities and movement. Many classes integrate Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training (S.M.A.R.T.) into the daily routine. S.M.A.R.T. is a multi-sensory approach to learning, designed to develop and enhance the physiological and neurological readiness skills students need to succeed in school. With these readiness skills in place, students develop the necessary tools to be able to learn to read, write, and receive information in the classroom.

Core to our early childhood philosophy is supporting each individual child and their overall development. As a result, specialized and intervention services are provided to children whenever needed. Special Education, Speech, Adaptive Physical Education and Occupational and Physical Therapy intervention services are available to children who qualify.

We believe parents are their child's first and most important teacher. For that reason, we seek strong partnerships with parents and caregivers to support each individual child's development. Teachers and service providers are often times a family's link to services both within and outside the school district. In addition, early childhood teachers work collaboratively with other early childhood partners in the community to ensure program alignment between supporting agencies and kindergarten readiness.