

THE PROGRAM

Guided by Quaker principles, our multidisciplinary curriculum is taught through a combination of structured activities and free exploration, which fosters children's natural curiosity while providing them with the foundation needed for success in Kindergarten—and beyond.

Classes delve into topical units of group interest, and critical thinking is woven into every activity as children make observations, discuss them, problem-solve, and begin to understand how similarities and differences enhance the classroom community. Fostering a strong sense of self among our youngest learners reinforces positive self-esteem and respect for one another.

We place equal emphasis on a child's ability to express his or her feelings and ideas in appropriate ways, as well as nurture the capacity to listen and take turns. We model peaceful conflict resolution and the importance of being a responsible and engaged member of the group.

The Early Childhood curriculum addresses the developmental skills that lead to Kindergarten readiness. This includes helping children sit and listen, focus, make thoughtful choices, interact with one another respectfully, follow multi-step directions, and self-regulate. We strive to work together, communicate often, and share our insights with parents and caregivers.



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GFS

**GERMANTOWN
FRIENDS SCHOOL**

31 West Coulter Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

TEL: 215.951.2300

www.germantownfriends.org

GFS

Early Childhood



GERMANTOWNFRIENDS.ORG/ECP



Dear Friends,

GFS Early Childhood has the great honor of being the first stop on the educational journey of our youngest friends. We take pride in creating rich and engaging experiences that expand each student's mind and address the whole child.

We aim to foster curiosity and confidence through exposure to new ideas. We seek to build social and emotional skills through play and collaboration. Throughout many aspects of our program, we offer opportunities for our students to develop coordination and mind-body connections.

Quaker values are at the heart of the GFS experience, serving as our moral compass, driving our interactions with one another, and teaching us to honor the Light in each member of our community.

Perhaps most importantly, we provide an environment that encourages children to become creative thinkers and lifelong learners. Come for a visit and you will see students engaged in joyful learning.

Sincerely,



Sarah

Sarah McMenamin, Ed.D
Director of Early Childhood



AREAS OF FOCUS

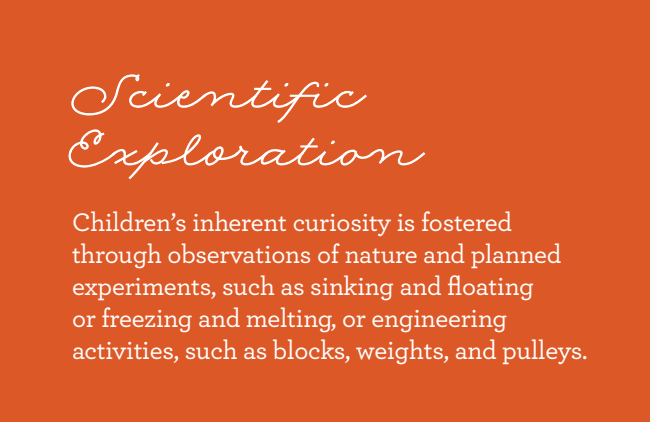


Emergent Literacy Concepts

Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop, storytime, creative dramatics, rhyming, and independent reading build a foundation for early literacy.

Emergent Math Concepts

Math Workshop, puzzles, sand, water, blocks, patterning, sorting, and cooking activities help to develop early math concepts.



Scientific Exploration

Children's inherent curiosity is fostered through observations of nature and planned experiments, such as sinking and floating or freezing and melting, or engineering activities, such as blocks, weights, and pulleys.



Artistic Exploration

Creative expression is encouraged daily in the Art Center, where children can be found painting, drawing, and crafting with found objects, playdough, and other materials.



INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING



MOVEMENT

Movement focuses on locomotion, balance, and sense of self in space. The children are exposed to a variety of physical activities, such as yoga, dance, parachute play, and obstacle courses. Movement helps develop a positive attitude and appreciation for a lifetime of participation in regular physical activity.

ART Studio time is both structured and open-ended. Our Art teacher focuses on process and Art History. Each week the children explore and discover different media and ways of making Art, often through the lens of a well-known artist's work. Focusing on the basic elements of art provides children with the skills and language to create, and discuss art forms well beyond their Early Childhood years.

MUSIC Children learn about instrumental melodies, song, rhythm, tempo, dance, and expression through singing, movement, and playing instruments with our Music teacher.



QUAKERISM AND MEETING FOR WORSHIP

We are a Friends school, under the care of Germantown Monthly Meeting. Together, love and respect for each individual provide the premise for all we do. Children in Early Childhood attend Meeting for Worship weekly on their respective campus. In addition, students from both locations gather together once a month in the historic Meetinghouse on Main Campus. The classes come together to share a story or poem, then sit quietly and reflect on the message of the reading for a few minutes. Children may share their thoughts with the group if they are so moved. We close each Meeting by shaking hands. Additionally, EC students attend GFS' annual all-school Meeting for Worship.



LIBRARY Children have story time, which includes a special read-aloud by our librarian and time for browsing library books. At the end of each visit, every child selects a book to check out for the classroom library.



SCHEDULE The Early Childhood day begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Children may enter the classroom at 7:45 a.m. and Extended Day is available until 6 p.m. Preschool children may attend four days per week. PreK children attend five days per week.

WE WELCOME YOUR APPLICATION

We want every GFS student to be successful, so we seek applicants and families for whom our program and school philosophy will be a good match. Children applying to the GFS Early Childhood division participate in an admissions process that is designed to align with their cognitive and socioemotional development. We aim to get to know your family and your child individually, in a group, and from current teachers, in ways that maximize engagement for your child and minimize stress for your family. Our Admissions Committees take great care in reviewing all information submitted for each applicant.

The application process may begin as early as the September before a student enters GFS. We typically receive many more applications than we have available spaces, so it is important and to your benefit to apply and schedule appointments early.

For applicants applying for the 2022-23 school year, please select the grade applying for according to the following birthdates:

- **YOUNGER PRESCHOOL:** Children must be at least 2 years 7 months old by September 1, 2022
- **OLDER PRESCHOOL:** Select if your child will be 3 years 7 months old by September 1, 2022
- **PRE-K:** Select if your child will be 4 years old by September 1, 2022

Note: Children must be at least 2 years, 7 months old by September 1, 2022, to enroll for the 2022-23 school year. Children who enroll in our preschool are evaluated during their PreK year for promotion to Kindergarten at GFS.

A Division Director can discuss Early Childhood class placement options during your parent interview, and we can easily make any appropriate adjustments to your application as needed as you move through the process.

APPLY TODAY

Main Campus
Germantown
31 W. Coulter Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Center City
The Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

QUESTIONS?

Please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Office at 215-951-2345 or admissions@germantownfriends.org.

