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 ideas, problem-solve, and begin to understand how similarities and differences enhance the classroom community. Fostering a strong sense of self among our youngest learners supports 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 tolerate. 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.

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 McMenamin, Ed.D
Director of Early Childhood
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. Note: Children must be at least 2 years, 7 months old by September 1, 2022, to enroll for the 2022-23 school year. For applicants applying for the 2022-23 school year, please select the grade applying for according to the following birthdates:

• Pre-K: born on or before September 1, 2020
• Younger Preschool: born on or before September 1, 2021
• Older Preschool: born on or before September 1, 2022

The application process may begin as early as the September before a student enters GFS. We typically review new applications as soon as they arrive, so it is important to apply and schedule appointments early.

The schedule applies for the 2022-23 school year, please select the grade applying for according to the following birthdates:

• Pre-K: born on or before September 1, 2020
• Younger Preschool: born on or before September 1, 2021
• Older Preschool: born on or before September 1, 2022

We are a Friends school, under the care of Germantown Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia, and operate from a pedagogical foundation of Quakerism, which emphasizes personal growth and community. We believe that the best education occurs when students take ownership of their learning, teachers act as facilitators, and the classroom is a place where all students can participate fully in the learning process.

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