



Woodbury Preschool

Where Children Play to Learn

2012–2013 School Year



National
Museum
of **PLAY**

WOODBURY PRESCHOOL

Welcome to Woodbury Preschool

At Woodbury Preschool we understand that every child has a unique way of learning. Our staff of early childhood teachers provide a warm, caring environment for children ages three and four. Guided by their own interests, children learn and develop in playful activities set among the engaging, dynamic, hands-on exhibits in the National Museum of Play®. The preschool is named in honor of museum founder Margaret Woodbury Strong, whose parents, John and Alice Woodbury, made the world Margaret's classroom and encouraged her to play in countless ways, ranging from games and sports to travel and collecting.

The Power of Play

Woodbury Preschool uses the power of play to nurture each child's learning, creativity, and self-discovery. Through play, children have experiences that introduce and connect them to the larger world, help them develop trust with peers and adults outside of their family, and build their confidence and self-reliance.

Curriculum

The curriculum at Woodbury Preschool is Reggio Emilia-inspired and is therefore responsive to the interests of the children in the class. This approach uses an "emergent" curriculum philosophy that encourages teachers and students to work together to plan the curriculum and create projects. Guided by teachers who facilitate their explorations, children delve deeply into topics that fascinate and stimulate learning. Small and large group activities involve art, music, cooperative games, movement, pre-reading, math, and other age-appropriate experiences. Parents have the opportunity to see how their children learn through student art, photographs of students at work and play, video recordings, and projects.





The Learning Environment

Small classes enable children to build confidence as they explore the world under the close supervision of early childhood teachers.

Specially designed classrooms serve as the children's home base. These inviting spaces, set apart from the museum galleries, provide a familiar, comfortable, and manageable environment for preschoolers. Children grow in independence as they explore the classrooms and the fascinating materials they discover.

Supervised by their teachers, children also experience colorful, imaginative museum spaces including *Reading Adventureland*, *Field of Play*, and other interactive exhibits. Weather permitting, children enjoy experiences in a secure outdoor play space designed for the exclusive use of the preschool.

The Parent's Role

We consider parents to be school partners, and we encourage classroom visits and parental involvement in class projects. Parents may arrange to observe their children through a two-way mirror in the classroom's observation area. New students receive a home visit from the teachers during the summer, and parent-teacher conferences are held regularly throughout the school year.





Important Information

Ages

To be eligible to enroll in the preschool, children must be three or four years old on or before December 1 of that school year.

School Calendar

School begins in mid September and ends in mid June. The preschool follows the Rochester City School District closures for inclement weather as announced on radio and television.

Days and Times

Mornings*

Three-Year-Old Program

Tuesday/Thursday
9–11:30 a.m.

Four-Year-Old Program

Monday/Wednesday/Friday
9–11:30 a.m.

**Note: Early drop-off for morning students is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. for an additional fee.*

Afternoons

Three- and Four-Year-Old Combined Programs

Tuesday/Thursday, 1–3:30 p.m.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 1–3:30 p.m.





How to Enroll

Enrollment is open to all children via a lottery system. A non-refundable application fee is required to enter the lottery.

Applications are available at the museum, at www.museumofplay.org, or by calling 585-410-6303.



Applications and information about the lottery are available on December 1 for the following school year.

A limited number of needs-based partial scholarships are available through the lottery system. Please see the application form for more information.





The Woodbury Preschool Philosophy

Woodbury Preschool at the National Museum of Play respects each child as a unique person with preferences and opinions that help guide his or her learning. Children, parents, and teachers are considered learning partners. Among the principles underlying the preschool program:

- Each child develops differently and should be respected as a unique learner with his or her own learning preferences and styles.
- Learning occurs best in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment.
- Teachers observe areas of student interest and help children pursue learning through guided and unguided techniques.
- The curriculum builds on the interests of the children and will evolve as children gain knowledge and ask new questions.
- Children can make choices based on their learning preferences and interests.
- Free play is an important aspect of learning and development.
- Early childhood education should focus on the whole child, including social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth.