Woodbury School

Where Children Play to Learn
Welcome to Woodbury School

At Woodbury School 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, four, and five. Guided by their own interests, children learn and develop in playful activities set among the engaging, dynamic, hands-on exhibits at The Strong. The school 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 School 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.
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 students. 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, Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden, and other interactive exhibits. Weather permitting, children enjoy experiences in a secure outdoor play space designed for the exclusive use of the school.

The Parent’s Role
We consider parents 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.
Curriculum
The curriculum at Woodbury School is Reggio Emilia-inspired and is therefore responsive to the interests of the children in the class. This approach uses a 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 students, enhance skill development, and stimulate learning. Small and large group activities involve art, music, cooperative games, movement, literacy, math, and other age-appropriate experiences. The curriculum of the early kindergarten program adds additional small-group project extensions designed to support the development of skills in four- and five-year-old children.

How to Enroll
Information about the enrollment process is available on December 1 for the following school year. Applications are available at museumofplay.org or by calling 585-263-2700.

Financial assistance and a limited number of needs-based partial scholarships are available. Please visit the website for more information.
Ages
To be eligible to enroll in Woodbury School, children must be three, four, or five years old on or before December 1 of that school year.

School Calendar
School begins in early September and ends in early June.

Days and Times
Preschool Program for Three- and Four-Year-Olds
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9–11:30 a.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

Early Kindergarten Program for Four- and Five-Year-Olds
Monday through Friday, 1–3:30 p.m.
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1–3:30 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1–3:30 p.m.

For information about age guidelines and tuition for each class, visit museumofplay.org.
Woodbury School Philosophy
Woodbury School at The Strong 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 school 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 evolves 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.