

Frequently Asked Questions – Part-Day Preschool Program

How is the part day program different from other programs Annette’s offers for 3-5 year olds? The Part-Day Preschool program will have two distinct sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Children can enroll for either session which will each run for three hours and twenty minutes. The morning program will begin at 8:40am and run until 12 noon. The afternoon session will begin at 12:40pm and conclude at 4:00pm. In addition, this program will only run for 35 weeks per year, following the CSSU school calendar.

How many days can I enroll my child? Can I enroll in some AM and some PM classes? You can enroll your child for a minimum of 3 or a maximum of 5 half days per week. If you choose three days a week, your schedule must include a Monday and a Friday. You may alternate morning and afternoon sessions, however, consistency is ideal for 3-5 year old children.

What type of curriculum will the Part-Day Preschool program use and how does it work? At Annette’s Preschool we use an approach to curriculum called Emergent Curriculum. Emergent Curriculum is recognized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to be a best practice in the early education field today. It is child-centered and focused around the interests and needs of the children along with the passions of the teacher. Learning is the result of a continuous cycle of inquiry using areas of deep interest to the children. Emergent Curriculum is a process in which teachers collaborate with children around their ideas, questions, development and topics of interest. The curriculum is intentional and teachers respond to children’s ideas by developing further activities for discovery, scaffolding knowledge, changing the environment, documenting the process and writing a plan for curriculum that emerges.

What are the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) and how are they related to Emergent Curriculum? The Vermont Early Learning Standards (also called “VELS”) is a state-wide set of guiding principles around 8 domains which frame learning goals for children upon entry into Kindergarten. The VELs are a set of learning standards (what we do), and Emergent Curriculum is a delivery model or philosophy (i.e., how we do it) which we have adopted as a program. The 8 domains in the VELs are: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Language, Literacy and Communication, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Creative Expression, Physical Health and Development.

What does it mean for my child to be “ready” for Kindergarten? There are many resources on what readiness means for both children and for schools. Current research shows that children who experience high quality early care and education are more likely to come to Kindergarten with an understanding of developmental literacy (knowing where a book starts/ends, parts of the book, some sight words, what print looks like, phonemic awareness, identifying letters), and developmental numeracy (counting with one-to-one correspondence, conserving quantity (same total if “all together”), identifying numbers). However, research shows that characteristics which are not academically focused are valued by Kindergarten teachers the most. These are the abilities to interact positively with others, self-regulate when things don’t go as planned, persevere in the face of distraction or defeat, stay on task and pay attention, and to take care of oneself (put on coat, tie shoes, self-care, etc.). Memorization of facts, figures and names cannot replace the skills, habits and “approaches to learning” that we endorse through our inquiry-based emergent curriculum.

Are there separate classes for 3, 4 and 5 year olds? No, we use mixed age classrooms. Multi-age or “mixed age” preschool classrooms refer to early education for 3-5 year olds together in one class, rather than dividing

children into separate classes based on chronological age alone. Because children develop in sequential stages which build upon the skills acquired previously, and because young children (especially) develop at different rates in each domain (physical, social, language, cognitive) a multi-age environment enables each child to learn according to their developmental level. Some variation between developmental level and chronological age is completely normal for all children, and thus a child who is learning from others in one domain may also be able to teach others in another area at the same time. When children are interested in the activities of older children, they develop mastery motivation, or the belief that they can succeed in a difficult task. Such classrooms also encourage empathy between children who ask for help, and those who hone social emotional skills through helping them. A mixed age class at Annette's also aligns with the HCS model.

Will my child be provided meals at Annette's Preschool part day program? No, your child will need to pack a healthy snack and eat lunch at home.

What will the daily schedule look like for my child in the Part-Day Preschool program? The Part-Day Preschool program will feature a mix of small and large group activities, outdoor exploration and circle time. We will begin each day with an introductory circle before moving to outdoor exploration. When the children come in after their time out of doors, they will enjoy their snack together. The rest of the day will focus on unique projects or "investigations" driven by the interests of the children and facilitated by the teacher.

What outdoor space is available for the children in the part day program? Your child will have access to both our preschool playgrounds, our natural woodland area and dedicated green space on our 3.2 acres overlooking Hinesburg. Trips to CVU fields and trails will also occur. **Who will be teaching the part-day program?** Here at Annette's Preschool we pride ourselves on our experienced and educated staff. The lead teacher will have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education as well as a Teaching License with an Early Ed Endorsement from the state of Vermont.

Is my family eligible to receive Act 166 funds? If your child is 3, 4 or 5 on or before 9/1/15 and not attending Kindergarten, then your child is eligible to receive \$3,000 toward 10/hrs per week of early education in a pre-qualified program like Annette's Preschool. Families enrolled in our year round part-time/full-time programs as well as families enrolled in our part-day, 9 month program can access Act 166 funds toward tuition for their age eligible children.

Is Annette's Preschool a program with pre-qualification status by the Agency of Education? Yes, Annette's Preschool is a 5 STAR early care and education program and is pre-qualified by the Agency of Education to receive Act 166 funding for early education services.

How can I find out more information? We encourage families schedule an individual visit to our program. Feel free to call [Victoria Ward](#) or [Andrea Sambrook](#) on 482-2525 to schedule a visit or to ask questions.