

Arts Enrichment Lessons



Toddler Program Scheduling

The focus at this age is on gross motor skills, sensorial activities, and social skills. Integrating many opportunities for these activities into their class day is appropriate, and early in the day when they are most receptive. An instructor from MoCo will visit once a week and conduct a half hour “dance and movement” lesson and an independent music specialist will visit on a different day, once a week, to conduct a half hour “music and movement” lesson **held within the 8:30-11:30 a.m. class time period.** These will be set days determined by the contractors availability.

These programs promote creative exploration through movement, singing, and listening. Scarves are used to represent and respond to what is heard, and shakers or other instruments to analyze fast/slow, beats, and emotions. The focus is on movement and exposure to different music and dance styles.

For the 2016-17 school year the Toddler’s dance and movement lessons will be held on Tuesday mornings, conducted by Ms. Danielle Fitzpatrick, and the music and movement lessons on Wednesday mornings, conducted by Nancy Salwen of Nancy Salwen Music Together.

Primary Program Scheduling

The Primary curriculum **already integrates independent art and music lessons within their morning “work cycle”**, such as the Montessori bells (matching pitch), color grading and matching, matching artists and their works of art, and other activities. Many sensorial activities incorporate the arts, and they listen to selected musical pieces that tie into current curriculum.

Dr. Maria Montessori determined that three hours was the required amount of uninterrupted time for a preschool age child to progress and eventually settle into their most difficult work choice, deepest level of concentration, and to stay with it for the longest time to typically make the greatest strides. When that cycle is broken they do not reach that point of concentration or level of more challenging work. For children who attend less than five days, being able to complete this uninterrupted cycle is particularly important.

Therefore, we do not wish to disrupt this cycle regularly with other activities that pull groups of children or individuals out of the classroom, so **arts enrichment lessons with visiting instructors are scheduled in the afternoons, after nap-time, between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.**

For the 2016-17 school year, Primary dance and movement lessons will be held on Wednesdays from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m., conducted by Ms. Danielle Fitzpatrick from MoCo. Music exploration classes will be held on Thursdays, with students split into two small groups, held 3-3:30 p.m. and 3:30-4:00 p.m., and conducted by a Keene State College Music Education Student. Music lessons may alternate with Art Lessons, or be offered for other alternating periods of time, depending on contractor availability and/or as scheduled by the Aftercare Director.

Full-Day Class Primary Students and Violin Lessons

Primary students enrolled in the full-day primary class and at least 4 years of age, **may choose to participate in violin lessons, if offered, during their afternoon class time.**

For 2016-17 we are fortunate to have Ms. Rebecca Junnila, a Suzuki Music trained teacher be available again to offer small group violin lessons during the afternoon class time on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.. Her continued availability is not guaranteed as she seeks full time employment.

\$150 Annual Arts Enrichment Fee (or \$15 monthly): Fee applies only to those students who attend the days and hours that the arts enrichment lessons are held. This nominal fee offsets just a small portion of the arts enrichment program expenses, the rest is covered through fundraising activities.