



The Lawrence Arts Center Arts-Based Preschool

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in the Lawrence Arts Center Preschool. We know that choosing a preschool is hard, as you want to start your child's education on the right track. Don't panic. It is not a Harvard versus Yale decision. The fact that you are concerned means your child will be in good hands no matter which preschool you choose. Here is some information to make your choice easier.

The Lawrence Arts Center Preschool uses a creative, arts-based teaching structure to bring out a child's natural interest in learning. The Arts allow children to think creatively, to build their own ideas, to solve problems in more than one way, and to try new things.

In addition to the full-time teaching staff, children have the opportunity to have live experiences with professional dance and theatre faculty. Preschool students attend some performances and rehearsals with our professional children's theatre and modern dance companies. Professionally trained artists and performers help children feel positively about themselves and their experiences with the visual arts, whether it is ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, music, drama, creative movement, or dance.

A nurturing, creative environment instills self-confidence and positive feelings about school which last a lifetime. Field trips, walking trips in the downtown area and to the parks and playgrounds, indoor and outdoor giant parachute play, and many and varied classroom choices are also part of the preschool program. At this age, children don't like to sit too long. *Physical* and *mental* freedom influence a child's ability to grow and learn.

Children must be three years of age before September 1, 2008. We offer several other classes each semester for 2 & 3 year olds.

At the Lawrence Arts Center we know children learn more and learn faster when they develop their skills in a creative environment. This environment of creativity and activities appropriate for the preschool child's development helps children to be ready for academics in elementary school. Our approach to preschool education promotes free expression, is an outlet for creativity, and encourages creative thinking and problem-solving. The Lawrence Arts Center Preschool is nationally recognized as a leader in Arts-Based Education.

For more information,
Call Bonnie Cherry or Linda Reimond, Preschool Director, at 843-2787.

Lawrence Arts Center Preschool Enrollment 2008-2009

We are planning for the 2008-2009 school year, September through May. If you are interested in enrolling your child in the Lawrence Arts Center Preschool, please complete this form and return it to 940 New Hampshire, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Children must be three years of age before September 1, 2008. We offer several other classes each semester for 2 and 3 year olds.

I would like my child _____ to attend the Lawrence Arts Center Preschool for the 2008-2009 school year.

My class preference is: _____
(please indicate **first** and **second** choice)

MORNING CLASSES	
Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9:30am-12:00pm \$130.00/month	Tuesday-Thursday 9:30am-12:00pm \$100.00/month
AFTERNOON CLASSES	
Monday-Wednesday-Friday 1:00-3:30pm \$130.00/month	Tuesday-Thursday 1:00-3:30 pm \$100.00/month
Monday through Friday* 1:00-3:30 pm \$225.00/month	
<small>* There will be some repetition in children's activities and different students in the class depending on the day.</small>	

Monthly fees include all materials and drink for snacks. Families will provide snacks approximately once every 1-2 months. Fees are due at the beginning of each month. A late fee of \$10.00 will be assessed for payments received after the 10th of each month. Confirmation letters and Preschool forms to be filled out for the 2008-2009 school year will be sent in March 2008.

I understand that this is a commitment to the Lawrence Arts Center and that my child will be in class during the 2008-2009 school year. I am enclosing a **\$60.00 non-refundable enrollment fee** to hold a space for my child. By July 15, 2008, I will pay the last month's tuition (May 2009) to confirm my enrollment reservation.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please print clearly both parents' names and mailing address:

Parent Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Email _____

Child's Birthdate _____ **Home Phone Number** _____

Cell Phone Number _____ **Work Phone Number** _____

Why Art? A very good question. Think of “the arts” as art, music, dance, and drama. Not only is art fun, art is a perfect way to learn. Learning through the arts is a smart and fun way to enhance brain development, support individual learning, and help people prepare for success in school and in life. Arts-based learning is great for kids of all ages, but especially helpful for young children for reasons such as these listed here.

Physical Development

Large and small muscle development and coordination are important aspects of every art activity. Different muscles are exercised in different art activities. As the muscles are exercised, they grow stronger and the child gains better control over them.

Coordination of eye and hand movements follow as a child tries to control the crayon, brush, or marker in his hand to make marks that are meaningful to him. In dance and creative movement one learns control and coordination of the body in space. In these art forms, she learns to use her hands, eyes, feet, and body at the same time. She develops control over eye muscles, an important first step in learning to read. “Free drawing” rather than coloring in the lines of a coloring book, will develop the skills needed for making letters and numbers.

Mental Development

Children learn by doing. Learning concepts, language and skills are a foundation for reading, math and science. If it goes through the hands, feet, body, it goes through the brain.

Language and Literacy

Children learn through direct experience what the word “texture” means as they handle cloth with different surfaces, thick/thin while using paint.

As children talk about their art work, they are “reading” their picture. Writing a story is “written down talk”.

Dramatic play and acting-out stories make stories, actually, come alive.

Thinking Skills

Art provides opportunities for making decisions and problem solving no matter how many times a child has worked with the same medium.

Creative Development

Creativity is the ability to see, make, or perform in a new way. Making something new, being creative means taking a risk to do that “something new or different.” Making mistakes is a part of this process. Scientific thinking and creativity are difficult to separate. Maya Angelou states, “You cannot use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”

Aesthetic Development

Aesthetic awareness involves helping children see, hear, and enjoy the beauty in their world. It improves the quality of learning and helps the creative process.

Social-Emotional Development

As children work in the art center, they learn to share the materials, to accept other’s ways of doing art, and to enjoy being a part of the group. Creating art affords the opportunity for release—clay, woodworking, fingerpaint, waterplay. Children learn to feel good about themselves as they learn they can do things well.

Children who feel free to make mistakes and to explore and experiment will also feel free to invent, create, and find new ways to do things. Grant the lasting gift of freedom to children—to make mistakes and learning from doing. The side benefit is that fostering creativity is rewarding and fun and gives children a zest for imagining and learning to last a lifetime.

-Compiled by the director and staff of the Lawrence Arts Center Preschool.

