

Teaching Staff

In order to provide the best possible experience for each child, teachers believe it is important to:

- Regularly record observations of children's activities and develop a yearly portfolio of each child's work
- Meet and plan with their team teachers to build on children's interests and needs
- Attend staff workshops on child development
- Participate in professional organizations such as local (LAEYC) and national (NAEYC) chapters of the Association for the Education of Young Children
- Attend national or regional educational conferences whenever possible
- Read and review new research and literature on quality early childhood education.



Opportunities for Parents & Teachers to Work Together

We know that teamwork between parents and teachers is vitally important for children's well-being in early education programs. We welcome parents into our rooms and love talking together at any time. Parents' suggestions and ideas help us create the

best program possible for children. Parent-teacher conferences are twice a year.

Family Activities & Services

We believe in supporting families by providing a variety of social and educational opportunities, including:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Parent Information Night
- Family Picnic
- Open House
- Nature Explore® Families' Club
- Eat & Explore Night
- "Coffee & Conversation" parent group
- "Make Every Child a Champion" Event



Session Schedules & Fees

Session Schedules:

August through May with additional summer programs available. Families may choose from the following sessions:

	<i>Preschool:</i>	<i>Infant & Toddler:</i>
Monday–Friday:	8:45–11:45• c 8:45–2:45	9:00–12:00• 9:00–3:00*
MWF or TTh:	9:15–12:15• 9:15–3:15	9:00–12:00• 9:00–3:00*

- *The 8:45–11:45 and 9:00–12:00 sessions do not include lunch.*
* *The 9:00–3:00 session also includes a nap.*

Early Morning and Late Afternoon Sessions

Optional classes available before and after sessions.

Preschool. . . any time from 7:30–9:15 a.m.
and/or after 2:45/3:15 as late as 5:30 p.m.

Infant and Toddler. . . any time from 7:30–9:00 a.m.
and/or after 3:00 as late as 5:30 p.m.

Fees

Preschool monthly:

3 hour session: M-F...\$219; T-Th...\$110; MWF...\$156.

6 hour session: M-F...\$438; T-Th...\$195; MWF...\$272

Early Morning and Late Afternoon: \$4.00/hour, billed in 15 minute increments.

Infant and Toddler hourly: Infant: \$5.50; Toddler: \$4.90

A \$55.00 registration fee is due at the time you accept an available spot and before your form can be processed. Monthly tuition payments will be automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings accounts on either the 10th or 25th of each month. If paying by check, there will be a \$50.00 check handling fee for the year. A \$10 fee will be charged on all on returned checks.

A Tuition Assistance Program is available on a limited basis for families who may need lower tuition for a variety of reasons. Please call our office for more information.

ALL EMERGENCY weather closings of LPS announced on the radio and TV will be observed by our program. If LPS is not in session we will follow the Catholic School weather closing announcements.

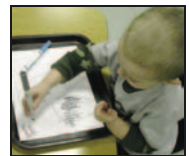
First-Plymouth Early Education Programs serve as research classrooms for the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation, an independent 501(c) 3 organization.

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First-Plymouth Early Education Programs
Dimensions Research Classrooms

2011-12 Infant/Toddler/Preschool



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Our mission is to inspire children, families and educators to connect more deeply with the world around them.

Philosophy

Dimensions First-Plymouth Early Education Programs believe in a hands-on, experiential approach to learning. Through creative research-based experiences, children are provided with opportunities to:

- Grow socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually
- Improve problem-solving skills
- Make decisions and begin taking responsibility for those decisions
- Develop confrontation and negotiation skills in relating to other people
- Learn to accept and appreciate differences among people
- Gain divergent thinking skills as their own ideas and creativity are encouraged
- Develop a life-long love for learning.

Dimensions First-Plymouth Early Education Programs are open to children of all denominations and faiths. Although housed in a church building, no specific religious teaching is included in the program. Diversity among students is encouraged and affirmed as every effort is made to gain an appreciation for the pluralism of our society.

Daily Activities

Dimensions First-Plymouth Early Education Programs' developmentally-centered approach to learning allows for a good balance between child-initiated activities and teacher-planned times. A consistent daily routine provides children with a sense of comfort and stability. A typical day might include:

Large, well-equipped rooms encourage learning through discovery as children choose from activities such as:

- Experimenting with paint and other creative art experiences
- Building with blocks and a variety of three-dimensional materials
- Exploring with science-related materials such as texture tables and nature items
- Language experiences with books, flannel boards, large crayons and more



- Working with small-motor manipulatives like giant pegboards
- Dramatic play and dress-up

Healthy nutritious snacks are provided each day, and are part of a comprehensive health and nutrition plan. Families are invited to bring in healthy snacks.

Children have daily opportunities to develop positive relationships with books as teachers read well-chosen stories and encourage children to explore books on their own. Our in-school libraries include a large selection of the best of children's literature, both fiction and non-fiction. Children are also encouraged to participate in story-telling, sign language and Spanish experiences and to explore writing implements. Teachers use the best and latest research to help support and encourage children's early literacy development.



Resource people, including parents and other community members, visit to share hobbies, skills and information.

Each day small groups of children work with their teachers on activities involving early literacy, math or science concepts, art, manipulatives, or a variety of other topics. Teachers plan these activities around children's interests and needs.

Infant schedules are individualized and they enjoy most of the activities listed above.

Children learn in such a complete way when they have daily opportunities in our Nature Explore® Classroom

to explore, experiment, draw, sketch, build, move, create music, write, look up information in books, and participate in real work (like weeding a garden or feeding birds in winter). We are pleased to be able to collaborate with the Arbor Day Foundation and share the research and field-testing occurring each day in our classrooms with other children and families around the country.



Our teachers receive resources that incorporate High Scope techniques and the latest research on quality musical experiences for young children that is implemented during Music and Movement and throughout other times of the day. In addition, special and unique music and movement experiences for children are scheduled periodically throughout the year.



Teachers have created field-tested and research-based experiences to help children best develop their large motor kinesthetic (movement) skills.

Research

Since 1998 the research branch of our program (the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation) has been working with professors from Doane College and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; a neuropsychologist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha; and various other collaborators from around the nation on on-going research to study the benefits that come from children's connection with nature on a daily basis. Teachers have been researching many new techniques and materials for children to experience. We are offering workshops, home and classroom activity kits, and videotapes to both educators and parents to help support this vital learning throughout our nation.

