



WALDORF SCHOOL

of GARDEN CITY

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM



WHO WE ARE & WHAT

We Believe In

PROTECTING AND NOURISHING CHILDHOOD
AS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

At the Waldorf School of Garden City, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills are accorded equal value, and many different competencies are developed. Activities in our Early Childhood Programs reflect the concerns, interests, and developmental stages of children at this age.

Our carefully constructed environment is designed to foster both personal and social learning. Teaching is by example rather than by direct instruction and is integrated rather than subject-based. In recognition of its vital role in early education, children are given time to play.



WELCOME TO

Our Classrooms

GARDENS FOR GROWING, SANCTUARIES
FOR LEARNING

Our classrooms are warm and welcoming, and support a range of creative play situations. Class time is a mixture of child-motivated play experiences and teacher-structured activities.

Each day of the week has its own artistic or practical activity. Students participate in watercolor painting, sewing, finger-knitting, baking, snack preparation, drawing with wax crayons, beeswax modelling, eurythmy, a French circle day, seasonal crafts, gardening, and regular walks on our nature trail.



Meal times offer an opportunity to develop good habits, socialize, and communicate. Children set the table with mats, cutlery, and a vase of flowers. Bread and fruit or a variety of healthy organic snacks are served.

Furniture is small-scale and child-friendly. The day is structured to provide a balance of activity and periods of quiet. Toys encourage resourcefulness and imaginative use.

REVEL IN THE

Outdoors

LESSONS FROM NATURE

Creative and interactive activities enable children to hone their motor skills during a fundamental developmental period of childhood.

Our classrooms are mixed-age groups; older children who are more familiar with the cadence of the class are role models for the younger members of the group.

Emphasis is placed on meaningful engagement in everyday tasks and caring for the environment—both inside and out.

Our Early Childhood classrooms have

outdoor play spaces that include an organic vegetable garden patch where the children can work alongside the adults in caring for the garden, growing vegetables, or playing together.

Recycling and composting is part of the ethos. It also encourages children to appreciate and take responsibility for the environment. Climbing, balancing, skipping, or digging all provide an excellent opportunity for children to develop gross motor skills.



CREATIVE EXPERIENCES FOR

Creative Minds

Natural objects such as pinecones or shells are sorted, ordered, and counted as part of spontaneous play. Learning in our Early Childhood Program gains meaning by its relevance to daily life.

The learning experiences in our Early Childhood Program are integrated in practical daily activity. Mathematics, for example, might take place where food is being prepared and the table is being set.

Painting and drawing help with balance and symmetry.

Children spontaneously perform puppet shows and develop dramatic skills by working with narrative and dialogue. The students also experience the musicality and subtle nuances of language through circle games, movement, music, and storytelling. Play encourages our students to become inventive, adaptable, and socially adept.

Importance is given to a regular rhythm of activities both within the day and over each week. A cyclical pattern is reflected in themes of work related to seasons of the year.

A combination of linguistically rich activities promotes fluency. Children leave the Early Childhood Programs with a rich and varied repertoire of songs, stories, and poems and a strong literary foundation.



PARENT & CHILD

Classes

OFFERING A FIRST-HAND OPPORTUNITY
TO SEE YOUR CHILD GROW AND FLOURISH

Our Parent and Child Program offers parents, grandparents, or caregivers and their children an opportunity to come together once a week in a warm, homelike setting that nurtures and values living a rhythmical life.

Under the guidance of a Waldorf-trained Early Childhood teacher, we share insights about life with a toddler through lively class discussions. This structured program includes free play,

circle time, songs and poems, and a puppet play. We also prepare and share a wholesome snack. In this way, teacher and parents work together to provide a model of what community means for these young children.

Schedule Parent-Child classes are typically ten-week sessions, commencing in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Classes are offered six days a week, Monday through Saturday.



WORKING WITH PARENTS

Our teachers are committed to establishing good relationships with parents. The importance of a happy, smooth transition from home to school is recognized. Participation in a range of events and activities strengthen the parent community.

How to Apply The Waldorf School of Garden City has established an online application process to help families request information and manage the application process.

Please visit WaldorfEarlyEducation.org or call **516-742-3434** for additional information.





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