

Watertown Public Schools Just Friends Preschool Program



**John Trumbull Primary School,
779 Buckingham Street
Oakville, CT 06779**

The Watertown Public Schools Just Friends Preschool Program is strongly committed to providing an enriching environment where all children, ages 3 and 4, will experience success and learn at their highest level. Our Preschool is an inclusive early childhood education program that provides developmentally appropriate programming for students identified for special education and for children who are typically developing; with an approximate 50/50 ratio.

The Preschool follows the Watertown Public Schools' calendar, classes are offered in the morning (9:00 - 11:25) and afternoon (12:35 - 3:00) sessions. The program runs Monday through Thursday.

Our preschool program is designed to foster:

- A life-long natural curiosity for learning
- Active learning through play based exploration with a balance of child-initiated and teacher selected experiences
- Language development and pre-literacy experiences
- Social-emotional competence
- A confident transition to kindergarten
- A partnership with parents and community

The preschool curriculum is based on the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards which includes the standards for cognition, social and emotional development, physical health, development, language & literacy, creative arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

All classrooms follow **The High Scope Approach** which follows basic principles that include:

- **Active Learning Environment**...Children learn best through “active participatory learning” which is direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events and ideas.
- **Positive Adult-Child Interaction**...Children are guided by trained adults who understand the important learning areas for children in the preschool years.

- **Consistent Daily Routine**...Following a consistent routine day after day gives children the sense of security they need to be able to make choices and take risks, which opens the door to exciting opportunities. The consistent daily routine at Just Friends includes:

Hello Time	Time	Outside/Gross Motor Time
	Recall	Good-bye Time
Table Time	Clean Up	
Circle/Planning Time Work/Play	Snack Time Small Group	

The High Scope 6-Step Problem Solving Approach is utilized to help the children become more independent problem solvers both inside and outside the environment.

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, children at the age of 3 may be eligible to receive special education or related services. If you think your child may be eligible for these services, or if you have a concern about your child's development, please contact the Director of Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services at 860-945-4808.

