A Child-Centered Pathway to Kindergarten

Rooted in a child-centered approach, we honor each child's natural curiosity, unique interests, and individual pace of development. By providing meaningful opportunities for exploration, discovery, and choice, we empower children to become active participants in their learning.

Play is essential to healthy neural development

Play strengthens the networks that support self-regulation, problem solving, language, and social skills, building a foundation for kindergarten.

Play builds imagination and ingenuity

Play encourages creativity, flexible thinking, and problem-solving skills that help children adapt, learn, and succeed.

Play improves literacy

Play builds vocabulary and communication skills, developing the language foundation needed to express ideas, follow directions, and participate meaningfully.

Play promotes physical development

Through play, children develop the coordination, strength, and body awareness needed for the school age environment.

Play encourages independence

Play fosters independence, confidence, and executive functioning skills, helping them manage routines, solve problems, and engage successfully in the kindergarten community.





"CCC is a remarkable place that fosters independence, social and emotional intelligence, and learning through play. As an elementary school teacher in Concord, I can always tell which students are products of CCC. They are able to function in a group, they demonstrate kindness, and they have an innate love of learning." CPS Teacher at Thoreau Elementary School

Our Play-Based Philosophy

Our play-based philosophy fosters a deep understanding of concepts while engaging children in the process of lifelong learning.

Engaged Learners & Active Explorers

Building with blocks or experimenting with water allows children to make predictions, test their ideas, and learn through discovery.

Thoughtful Empathizers

As children gather sticks and leaves on the playground to build with, they develop critical thinking, confidence through sharing ideas, and teamwork skills.

Skilled Communicators

When children work together to build a pretend restaurant, they take on different roles, negotiate responsibilities, solve disagreements about how the restaurant should run, listen to others' ideas, and advocate for their own. Through this play, they develop cooperation, flexibility, and conflict-resolution skills that support kindergarten readiness.









Adeptness in these areas prepares students to thrive as they advance to Kindergarten, so that they can continue to: "find joy in learning and dedicate themselves to become caring citizens, and responsible contributors in our increasingly diverse global society." Concord Public Schools (CPS) mission statement