

Paddock's Early Childhood Center: *Come Grow With Us*

Access our website at www.MilanAreaSchools.org,

then click the following tabs: **Programs, Early Childhood & Preschool Programs**

Program Philosophy: Paddock's Early Childhood Center encompasses many programs that help children and families succeed. We have children's programs starting from birth through age five, as well as, school-age childcare. Our purpose is to provide a quality, developmentally appropriate, educational experience for your child. We view ourselves as an extension of your family. There is a commitment to having a constant atmosphere of love, learning and security in order to help create a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

The Importance of Shutterfly: Parents have "homework" too. Once a week, parents should take time to explore PECC's Shutterfly site and show your child his/her pictures from their classroom folder. Talk with your child about his/her week here at PECC. This helps solidify your child's learning experiences. The direct link to our Shutterfly site is <https://paddocksearlychildhoodcenter.shutterfly.com/> (Please contact your teacher to receive the password).

We pride ourselves on taking time to assess and meet all family needs for preschool and /or childcare.

Our Program is Play-based Learning with a Creative Curriculum Foundation.

Paddock's Early Childhood Center's emphasis for all children is learning through play. There are many natural experiences through play that lay the foundation for educational experiences in our preschool rooms. In addition to the importance of play based learning, we also implement The Creative Curriculum, which balances both teacher-directed and child-initiated learning, with an emphasis on responding to children's learning styles and building on their strengths and interests. Teachers observe and assess as the children develop and strengthen their skills and share these outcomes with parents during conferences in the Fall and/or Spring. This curriculum is fully aligned the Common Core State Standards, state early learning guidelines, and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework.

In our preschool classrooms, children are active participants in the process of learning new concepts through individual and group experiences and activities. Each week our lesson plan will link together specific curriculum objectives integrating activities that reflect the children's interests. Through play, these activities support development in the Creative Curriculum's Eleven Experiences of Development and Learning (Blocks, Dramatic Play, Toys and Games, Discovery, Sand/Water, Art, Literacy, Technology, Cooking, Music and Movement, and Outdoors). The Mathematics area includes the preschool edition of the Everyday Math Curriculum which is used at Paddock in Kindergarten-2nd Grade. All projects done are age appropriate and done authentically by the child. Be sure to recognize your child's accomplishments and talk about the stages of what they did and brought home to share.

The children have opportunities for hands-on experimenting and interactions with classmates, which encourages them to make predictions and experience outcomes in all areas of learning. Through teacher-directed and child-initiated activities, our goal for the children is a relationship-based environment with peers, teachers, and families working together to enhance learning, create friendships, and promote positive outcomes.

Children have many opportunities incorporated into their day to support the development of self-help and social skills which are an important component for their transition to kindergarten.

Characteristics present in every preschool classroom:

- **Large Group Time:** Usually occur on the carpet area near the white board where they will count how many children are in school today. They use the number line to help build the language foundation for Everyday Math, "There are 16 children here today, but there were 15 yesterday...is that more or less than, ". The number line is used throughout the day to help solidify those early addition and subtraction concepts. We also review the weather, sometimes through interactive radar using the smart boards. Weather is important because it impacts recess time, which is really important to a preschooler. The children will also learn what

is needed to put on their bodies to keep them safe during their outdoor time. The job chart is an important part of large group time: it lets them know they are part of a community and it is important that they come to school; their classmates are depending on them to do their part. Often times this area is used for read-aloud, singing, dancing, and class meetings.



- **Small Group Time:** Students sit at the tables along with an adult to work on specific areas such as writing their name, learning some of their letters, etc. All of the students are engaged in a small group activity that is still driven by the children's interest.



- **Work Time or Choice Time:** Time of day where if you were standing in the classroom window looking in it would look like your child was simply playing. This is true. They are, and it is very important play because up until now they have been a sponge soaking up all of their learning experiences from the adults around them. This time lets the teachers learn what your child already knows. They can then insert themselves to play cooperatively with them to nurture, stretch and strengthen all of the skills they are working on and it gives them time to assess the objectives your child knows.
- Each classroom also has a visual schedule on the white board to explain how students transition from one activity to the next as well as a Parent Information Board and Sign in Sign out area.

Specials and Noteworthy Programs Offerings

- **Gym:** Gym class occurs in the MPR, be sure to check with your child's teacher about what day of the week gym is so you can make sure your child has proper shoes. Gym time not only allows for physical exercise but we also teach children basic rules to follow, how to listen for a multi-step direction, how to handle emotions of "winning and losing" or not getting picked each time, taking turns, cooperative play, etc. This offering falls in line with our Physical Objectives through the Creative Curriculum.
- **Library:** Children go to library on a set schedule. Since many preschool children do not know the days of the week yet and some are still learning how to care for books, the book they check out will not go home, it stays in the classroom. It becomes our job to teach them those important concepts. They also benefit from learning the routine of checking out a book and are exposed to the importance of reading and caring for books.
- **Outdoor Classroom:** We are so fortunate to have an outdoor classroom. The Nature Center allows your child to interact and learn with their natural environment. It is important for our students to explore on their own. We may do some group activities such as picking up a leaf to discover which tree it came off of or we may fill the bird feeders or build with the life size Lincoln logs.



- **Music Together:** An international music education program that emphasizes how to teach children to become producers of music, not just consumers. As a whole, we have gotten away from sitting around the piano together singing songs. We purchase music or turn the radio on but no longer spend time producing the songs. This curriculum encourages all children to experiment with a variety of instruments and encourages them to become producers.



- **Family Events:** Throughout the year families will be invited to attend “A Day in the Life of a Preschooler,” parent educational events combined with fun for the children, classroom celebrations, field trips, Family Farm Night, Paddock PTO events and more.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** We encourage you to volunteer to your comfort level, but we ask that you wait until October 1st so your child has an opportunity to bond with the classroom teachers and learn our routines. Each classroom has their own volunteer schedules.
- **Regie’s Rainbow Adventure Program:** This program was developed by the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan and falls in line with our Physical Objectives through the Creative Curriculum. Regie introduces and encourages your child to eat a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, use his/her senses to explore different foods and educates your child about the importance of being active daily.



Other options available

Full day care: lunch options, breakfast menu, toilet training procedures, nap routine, end of day routine and room transitions.

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP): This program is available to eligible students who are or will be four years old on or before SEPTEMBER 1, of the current school year. You may go to michiganpreschool.org to complete the state application to see if you qualify.

Breakfast Club: Early morning childcare available at 6:30 am. Breakfast is served.

PrimeTime: School-age childcare for the end of the day. Closes at 6 pm. Snack is served.

Half Days: When the district has a half day. We do offer childcare on these days. However, you do need to pre-register for the half day. Lunch is included.

Summer Camp: Our camp offers a summer filled with weekly themes, fun and friendship. The program is licensed by the State of Michigan and offers families quality care throughout the summer. Our staff includes certified teachers and experienced teaching assistants. Staff is CPR, AED & First Aid certified. A morning and afternoon snack as well as breakfast will be offered. Lunch is not provided, so campers will be responsible for bringing their own lunch.