

Willow Room (infants)

The Willow Room serves children 8 weeks to approximately 24 months old. The classroom is one of two observation classrooms partnered with the Child Development Program. The staff strives to provide a natural progression from families' homes to an individualized program for infants in our care. Families are able to join their children throughout the day when their busy schedule breaks from schooling and/or work demands allow. You can find the classroom located directly to the East of the semi-circle adjacent to the AHJ parking lot.

Maple Room (toddlers)

In the Maple Room, above all we are creating and deepening relationships between children and adults, and between adults. We strive to build the trust and safety that is vital to a healthy learning environment. Separation from family in the morning can be very emotional for 2 year olds. Families create short goodbye rituals with the teachers' support. Parent participation is integral to our program, and their contributions lift us up and support children and adults in so many ways.

Secondly, we strive to express ourselves in ways that are helpful and not hurtful. Teachers tell children: "I will help you use words to tell her how you feel about that." There is a "no blame/no shame" policy and no "time-outs." Instead, we talk and find safe ways for individual children to express their feelings and/or to relax with a teacher. We provide a "language-rich environment" with many songs.

A large part of our curriculum focuses on engaging and supporting children's needs and ideas. We observe and reflect, then respond by providing an encouraging atmosphere with language, spaces and materials that extend children's interests and thinking. We also spend much time helping them with group dynamics (waiting for a turn, welcoming others into play, conflict resolution, etc.)

Our door is open most of the day and children choose what and where to play and whether or not to participate in circle time. We also have predictable routines so that children know what to expect and feel competent. For example: Hand washing before eating and after toileting, sitting down to eat meals with the same teacher daily, and being on your cot or in a teacher's arms for nap.

All in all, the Maple Room is a dynamic and fun child-centered classroom with exuberant little researchers full of daily surprises and eager thoughtful teachers.

Lilac & Magnolia Rooms (preschoolers)

Lilac and Magnolia Rooms serve children ages three to five years. We focus on helping children to feel safe and confident at school, as well as provide literature, math, science, art, social studies and a variety of other curricular activities that support children's learning in all developmental areas. The children participate in activities indoors and outdoors during child and teacher directed times in addition to participating in movement opportunities, circle times, meal times and rest times. We believe in intentional teaching and allowing routines to become rituals. Both Lilac and Magnolia Rooms are the two classrooms at the AS Child Development Lab that serves children ages 3-5. One of the unique aspects of Magnolia Room classroom is that it is connected to an observation room which allows students and parents to sit and observe children interact with materials within the environment. Both rooms are full-day classrooms and are a State Preschool program from the hours of 8:00 am-12:00 pm. At any given time there may be up to 24 children, however, there are usually less than this during the afternoons. Like all of the classrooms within the ASCDL, our staffing is made up of two full-time teachers, part-time student employees, child development practicum students, as well as volunteers. With the number of adults in the environment our ratios of adults to children are usually 1:6.

All of the classrooms within the ASCDL follow the same philosophy, although how it may look from one classroom to the next may differ based on the physical layout of the classroom, as well as the ages of the children. Within these classrooms children have the opportunity to choose how to spend their time at school. Both indoor and outdoor environments are available to children for the majority of the day.

Teachers are usually stationed in an area or with certain materials and children are encouraged to move as they choose. The classrooms' environment is set-up so that children can self select materials, as well as participate in teacher planned and/or directed activities. We strive to work with children at their own levels of development while providing individualized activities to the best of our ability.

Children who are part of our morning program are to arrive by 8:30 to be a part of our breakfast and circle time routine. Circle time often consists of music and/or movement activity as well as a felt story and/or book. It is a time where we share information with the group as well as talk about what is the plan for the day. Prior to leaving at 12:00 children participate in a gathering time and are excused to eat lunch. Meals are served family style and children sit with the same teacher and children daily. This helps to create a small community within the larger group as well as provide healthy modeling for meal times.