

How Children Learn in Preschool:

Everything about the classroom environment is designed to help your child learn and grow.

The Classroom: When you walk into your child's preschool classroom you will find a large, colorful room divided carefully into learning centers. It will be filled with bright, primary colors and a variety of materials for your child to manipulate, explore, snuggle, play with, and share. The room is especially designed to encourage your child's creativity, curiosity, and desire to learn about their world. Children are learning every minute of the day! They learn from the large group, small group activities, and when they play outdoors. Children have many opportunities to make choices, compare ideas, experiment, and take responsibility for their work. Here's what you'll see when you visit:

	When children do this:	They are learning	(traditional subject)	*Multiple Intelligences
Blocks	Make bridges for cars	Use shapes to build	(math)	Spatial
Dramatic Play	Use a stethoscope to examine a friend and write a prescription	Recall what they know about work in the community (professions)		Intrapersonal
Games and Toys	Group pictures that are the same	and class		Spatial
Art	Paint a picture of their family	present	(literacy)	Spatial Intrapersonal
Discovery	Plant seeds and measure each plant's growth	Measure plant	(math) (science)	Logical-Mathematical Naturalistic
Sand and Water	Discover how much water a pail	Compare and estimate volume	(science) (math)	Naturalistic Logical-Mathematical
Library	Listen to a story and talk about it	Remember details, and express ideas	(language development, literacy)	Linguistic
Music and Movement	Sing with other children and	Recognize rhymes	(phonological awareness, listening)	Musical, Linguistic, Bodily-Kinesthetic
Cooking	Follow a recipe that calls for measuring ingredients by teaspoons, cups, etc.	Read a recipe Understand measurement	(literacy) (math)	Linguistic, Spatial, Logical-Mathematical

Children spend outdoors every day is just as important to their learning as the time they spend in the classroom. Outdoor activities are essential for children's health and well-being.

This is an excerpt from [Parent's Guide to Preschool](#), by Diane Trister Dodge and Joanna Phinney, Teaching Strategies, Inc., copyright 2002.

*Multiple Intelligences from Howard Gardner and [Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences](#) ©2011