

Lincoln Preschool
Lynn Fagan, Preschool Coordinator

The Lincoln Preschool has four integrated and multi-age classrooms and is open to students between the ages of 2.9 and 5 years old. The goal of the Lincoln Preschool is to provide a developmentally appropriate preschool experience that addresses each individual child's physical, emotional and intellectual growth. The Lincoln Preschool sets high standards for all children while valuing and accommodating individual differences, strengths and needs. The program operates on a school year schedule and parents and special education Teams have the choice of choosing or recommending two day (Tuesday and Thursday), three day (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) or five day (Monday through Friday) programming. The Lincoln Preschool continues to follow regulations issued by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and maintains accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The Lincoln Preschool is dedicated to providing an environment that supports social emotional learning and will continue to focus on implementing and utilizing the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment as well as the team consult process to evaluate the social emotional needs of our students. Students and their families have found the social stories generated by our teachers to be very useful in supporting students' understanding of life events including doctor's appointments, birthday parties, moving and/or a parent's deployment. We will continue to develop, expand and share our social story library and visual support systems to increase our student's ability to participate in activities while both in school and at home. The faculty has also planned opportunities for parents and families to participate in their student's accomplishments throughout the year.

The Lincoln Preschool continues to focus on the implementation of developmentally appropriate educational programming that is aligned with the primary school curriculum. The preschool faculty is currently engaged in a process to expand the curriculum to educate young children (age 3-5) in the areas of math, science and literacy. Last year the team worked to identify and select core materials for preschool mathematics instruction based on evidence about the effectiveness of programs available. We are excited to be implementing the Everyday Math program this year. The focus is on increasing preschool children's conceptual understanding of math to build a mastery of basic skills in a developmentally appropriate approach. In the area of science, the staff has identified and is teaching key science vocabulary to the students. Teachers have also articulated learning expectations in each of the science strands that will be taught during a two year cycle. In addition, the preschool team will develop a curriculum guideline in the area of literacy to support skill development as student's transition to the kindergarten programs. Teachers have been working collaboratively with faculty from the kindergarten programs and have scheduled time to observe in each of the programs in order to provide continuity of skills as students transition into primary school.

The Lincoln Preschool has a highly qualified staff with a comprehensive repertoire of knowledge, experience and skills. The staff includes a coordinator, special education teachers, occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech and language pathologist, social worker, school psychologist, tutors and aides. Professional development and training are provided for all staff on an ongoing basis and is an important tool in meeting the evolving and diverse needs of this age group.

The Lincoln Preschool program has evolved over the years yet the dedication to provide a quality early childhood program for preschool children has been consistent. We are particularly proud to continue to provide children of all abilities with a developmentally appropriate curriculum based education that has been recognized by both the Department of Early Education and Care and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It is a program that prepares our students for transitions to kindergarten or other districts around the country. The Lincoln Preschool is committed to the value of providing a preschool education for all students. We are pleased to be one of the quality programs in town that offers a preschool experience to children and are proud to recognize our program as a valued model of the PreK-8 district.