



GSB Preschool for 3s and 4s

Our vision of empowering every student to reach their fullest potential as citizens of the world starts here, with our youngest learners.





Our Program

Welcome to GSB Preschool, where young minds flourish in a nurturing, bilingual environment. Tailored to meet the developmental needs of children aged 3 to 5 years old, our preschool promotes the principles of Montessori education while fostering a language-rich environment in both German and English. The Montessori principles embedded within our curriculum and classroom environment include:

Practical life: Using everyday materials to foster the development of motor skills, concentration, independence, and care for oneself and the environment.

Sensory: Exploration of colors, shapes, textures, size, and our five senses to develop skills that lay the foundation for mathematical and scientific understanding.

Mathematics: Developing a sense of numbers, quantities, counting, addition, subtraction, and problem-solving through the free use of manipulatives.

Language: Being immersed in oral language, printed materials, songs and rhymes, and playfully engaging with vocabulary, phonics, letter formation, and other early literacy skills.

Culture: Fostering curiosity about the social and natural world, alongside an appreciation for diversity, and a larger understanding of the world through stories, discussions, and experiments.



At GSB, we understand the importance of providing a solid foundation for young learners. Our curriculum is carefully crafted to foster holistic growth that addresses physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development by embracing the Montessori philosophy of hands-on, child-centered learning. Through play-based activities and exploration, children are encouraged to discover, inquire, and create, laying the groundwork for a lifelong love of learning.

Our Preschool Environment

GSB's Preschool classroom is bright, airy, and intentionally arranged to foster independent learning experiences, as well as group play. The classroom functions as a learning tool itself and promotes the development of important social skills such as sharing, taking turns, problem-solving, and self-regulation. Areas of the classroom reflect the Montessori principles, incorporating everyday materials for children to develop independence through play. In addition to the learning areas, elements of nature such as plants and natural materials are incorporated into the classroom, providing children with opportunities to connect with the natural world. Furthermore, our students enjoy a private play area adjacent to the building, where they can engage in outdoor exploration and physical activity, fostering growth and well-being.

Our Approach to Language Immersion and Acquisition

At GSB Preschool, bilingualism is not just a component but a cornerstone of our program. We recognize the value of proficiency in multiple languages in today's interconnected world. Our approach to language acquisition is immersive, engaging,



and designed to support children on their path toward fluency in both English and German.

GSB Preschoolers, with or without prior knowledge of German, embark on an exciting journey of language discovery. Young children have a natural ability to absorb and mimic sounds, patterns, and structures effortlessly during this critical language development period. Our curriculum is carefully designed to introduce German in an accessible and enjoyable manner. Utilizing a combination of visual aids, gestures, and repetition, children seamlessly assimilate the sounds, words, and phrases of the language. Our dedicated teachers use interactive activities such as songs, games, and storybooks to provide ample opportunities for language practice in a supportive setting. With patience and encouragement, children build confidence, expanding their vocabulary, comprehension, and conversational skills—laying a solid foundation for bilingual proficiency and cultural appreciation.

This holistic approach fosters not only language acquisition but also a deeper understanding of the world. Children develop curiosity, empathy, and a love of learning as they explore different cultures and languages.



Our Approach to Social-Emotional Learning

As children progress through our early childhood program, they acquire essential academic skills alongside valuable social, emotional, and cognitive abilities. Our classrooms are designed to foster cooperative learning, allowing children to learn from each other and try new things in a safe space. Our approach to social-emotional learning honors and respects the unique qualities of each child, and recognizes the strengths each individual brings to our program. We aim to foster each child's sense of self and social identity while imparting respect for others within our diverse community. At GSB, children learn to value the opinions and abilities of others and develop an understanding of how to stand up for their own needs as well as the needs of those around them.

By the time they are ready to transition to our kindergarten, students are well-equipped to thrive in a bilingual environment with confidence, resilience, and a love for learning.

Outdoor Time and Nature Exploration

Outdoor time is an integral part of our daily routine. At GSB Preschool, the class will go outside every day to run, play, and experience the elements of the natural world. We believe in the importance of connecting with nature and fostering a sense of environmental stewardship from a young age. Whether it's exploring our outdoor play area, tending to our classroom garden, or special trips to discover nature in the city, children have ample opportunities to engage with the environment and develop a sense of wonder and curiosity.



Bringing the Outdoors In: Sample Nature Exploration

Our youngest learners will frequently participate in hands-on explorations to learn more about the wonders of nature. Here is a sample lesson:

How do plants grow?

Students learn the magic of how a tiny seed transforms into a plant. In the spring, each child receives a small pot, soil, and a bean, pumpkin, or sunflower seed.

Students observe the seed's texture, shape, and size, and discuss how it holds the potential for growth. Then, they gently plant the seeds in the soil, learning how to pat down the earth to provide a cozy environment for the seeds to flourish.

Students are in charge of watering the seeds and observing them each day. As the class waits for the seeds to germinate, the teacher leads storytelling sessions about the journey of a seed, incorporating art projects and group activities. Through this interactive experience, our preschoolers learn the science behind plant growth and develop a deeper appreciation for the environment, while strengthening their fine motor and observation skills.

Bringing the Indoors Out: Waldwoche ("Forest Week")

In the spring, our youngest learners will take part in a Waldwoche adventure. Students will spend each day outdoors in the park, equipped with magnifying glasses and "nature journals." From identifying different types of trees to observing tiny insects bustling beneath the bark of a fallen tree, every moment can lead to discovery. Teachers will lead sensory activities like leaf rubbing, painting rocks, and sand art fostering a connection with the natural world that thrives in the heart of Brooklyn.



Community Walks: Meeting our Community Helpers

At GSB, we take seasonal “Community Walks” to connect students with our neighborhood. One example is our annual visit to the local fire station, where our young learners have the opportunity to meet our brave community helpers. This is very exciting for students, as they are able to climb aboard a fire truck, try on a helmet, and learn about fire safety firsthand from the firefighters. We love to see students’ curiosity and enthusiasm, as well as the care that the firefighters extend to our students.

A Day at GSB PreSchool

Morning Session

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Arrival and Greeting Time

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM: Morning Circle Time

8:45 AM - 10:05 AM: Montessori Work Cycle (Individual and Group Activities)

10:05 AM - 10:30 AM: Snack Time

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Outdoor Exploration and Play

Midday Break:

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch and Choice Time

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Rest and Quiet Time (Nap for Younger Children, Quiet Activities for Older Children)

Afternoon Session:

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Creative Arts and Crafts

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Story Time; Dismissal



Extended Day:

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Snack Time

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Outdoor Play and Gross Motor Activities

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM: Free Play and Dismissal

Selected Weekly Rituals

Monday:

- Nature and/or Outdoor Exploration
- Music and Movement (Songs and Dance)

Tuesday:

- Science Experiment Day (Hands-on Learning)
- Cooking/Food Activity (Simple Recipes, Bilingual Instructions)

Wednesday:

- Cultural Exploration (Focus on English and German traditions)
- Yoga and Mindfulness (Child-friendly exercises)

Thursday:

- "Community Walk" Day
- Gardening and Nature-Based Activities

Friday:

- Show and Tell (Children share items related to weekly themes)
- Language Games and Activities