

## Universal Rochester Prekindergarten

Pre  
Start smart.

provides a high-quality program using the HighScope curriculum, with certified teachers and small class sizes (18 children maximum).

### What is Quality in Pre-K and Early Childhood Education?

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) describes a high-quality program as providing “a safe and nurturing environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of young children while responding to the needs of families.”

### Components of a High Quality Program:

A high-quality program has:

- Well trained, engaged teachers:
- Effective curriculum;
- A safe environment;
- Small group size and low adult to child ratios; and
- Excellent parent-teacher communication/ family engagement

*More information about the HighScope Curriculum used in our Prekindergarten classrooms can be found on the Early Childhood website:*

<http://www.rcsdk12.org/prek>

## Parents Are Child's First Teachers

### What can you do at home to support your child's learning?

- Engage in conversation with your child, responding to the content of his/her talk;
- Engage in your child's activity and talk about what child is doing;
- Provide books (the library is a good source) and read to your child;
- Limit your child's screen time; and
- Make sure your child gets enough sleep each night.

## Introduction to the HighScope Curriculum

### Adults and Children — Partners in Learning

In HighScope's vision of preschool education, children are doers and problem solvers, and adults are partners who share in children's discoveries and gently guide their learning.

### Active Learning

**Physical Activity** – Children use their **whole bodies** and **all their senses** to explore and learn about objects. Some of the active, physical ways preschool children use materials include pushing, pulling, squeezing, tapping, taking apart, putting together, squishing, smelling, licking, shaking, rolling and pounding. Through these experiences children construct an understanding of the objects around them: *balls roll, water splashes, ice is cold and slippery, carrot sticks taste better than pencils.*

**Mental Activity** – As children explore materials and ideas, they are **also mentally active**. They initiate their own plans. Their interactions are thoughtful: they ask and answer their own questions, and they encounter and solve problems as they work with materials. This process of planning, testing, questioning, and experimenting helps children develop a better understanding of the world. Here are some examples of the questions children consider as they work with materials: *Which ball will roll faster? How can I get the roof to stay on my block house? What can I use to make my sister a birthday card?*



*Children observe and make predictions as water drops roll down the ramp.*

This combination of mental and physical activity is what we call **active learning**. When active learning is present, children develop and grow as thinkers, learners, and doers.

### Curriculum Content

The HighScope Preschool Curriculum is built around 58 developmental milestones called *key developmental indicators* (KDIs) in 8 curriculum content areas that are closely aligned with the New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core and professional standards.

### Outcomes

HighScope programs get results. Research shows that the HighScope model prepares preschool children for long-term success both in school and in life.