

An Integrated Preschool

is one in which children with disabilities are educated in a classroom with typically developing children. The children with disabilities participate in all activities within the classroom and modifications are made as needed. Educating children with disabilities, along side their peers, provides them with same age role models for language, fine and gross motor skills and behavior development. This education model is known as *inclusion*.

In an integrated preschool setting, teachers differentiate the instruction to allow all children access to the curriculum. Speech pathologists, occupational or physical therapists work in classrooms with small groups of children, building upon each child's experiences.

At Fort Meadow School, high value is placed on individuality and compassion. Children develop an appreciation that everyone has unique and valuable characteristics. Students develop a feeling of empowerment and the ability to make a difference. When children are part of an inclusive setting, everyone gains an understanding and appreciation of differences among people- a lesson of a life time.

The Importance of Play



Preschoolers learn differently from school-age children: play is essential to early learning. Play is the main way children learn and develop ideas about the world. It helps them build the skills necessary for critical thinking and leadership. It's how they learn to problem-solve and to feel good about their ability to learn. Children learn the most from play when they have skilled teachers who are well-trained in understanding how play contributes to learning.

Most child development experts agree that play is an essential part of a high-quality early learning program. Play is not a break from learning—it's the way young children learn.



FORT MEADOW EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



35 White Street
Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 572-6422
fm.schoolsofwestfield.org

Joanne Hentnick, Coordinator

Fort Meadow Early Childhood Center

is a public, integrated preschool that serves approximately 200 children. We offer a warm, welcoming environment, designed to meet the needs of children and their families.

Highly Qualified Staff

Fort Meadow ECC is staffed by full time, highly qualified, special educators and licensed specialists that include; a certified school psychologist, speech and language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, an adjustment counselor and a board certified behavior analyst.

Our school offers every student a great deal of individual attention, and we strive to ensure that each child is given the opportunity to live up to their full potential.

Class Size



There are spaces for a total of fifteen students in each class. Eight of the spaces are for typically developing peers and seven are for students with special needs.

School Schedule

Our preschool follows the Westfield Public School District calendar, beginning in early September and concluding in mid June. All sessions are half days; either morning or afternoon.

Our Preschool Offers

- A Highly qualified, caring staff
- A clean, safe and secure facility
- Large and open classrooms
- Fun and engaging learning activities
- Low student/teacher ratio
- An indoor gymnasium
- An extensive, safe, fenced playground
- A full time registered nurse
- Healthy snacks
- Multiple, well equipped, therapy rooms
- Parental support

