



Our Program

BCNS is a Cooperative Preschool

BCNS, a non-profit established in 1963 by dedicated families and education professionals, is one of the Island's most established preschools. The cooperative structure of BCNS is an opportunity to build community with local parents, families, and our wonderful staff. Parents support our school through working together to maintain the buildings and governance of the school and can nurture wonderful friendships.

Our Philosophy:

Our school is a child-centered environment that fosters social, emotional, creative, and physical growth through a non-academic art and music-based curriculum. Respect for self, others, and environment are central values of the learning experience at BCNS. By offering choice within the classroom environment and teaching problem solving skills, we empower young children to develop into confident seekers of knowledge and good friends to others in their learning community. We value learning through process, rather than product, and believe deeply in honoring the unique contributions of every child.

There are three programs involved in the operation of the school.

- **The Administration program** consists of a Board of successive parent-officers, the Administrative Director, Lead Teaching Partner(s), and assistant teachers.
- **The Parent Program** is responsible for acquisition and upkeep of equipment, building, and grounds through working committees, the publication of a monthly newsletter, and the financial sustainability of the school
- **The Children's program:**
Preschool Class and Pre-K Class

BCNS CURRICULUM EMPHASIZES:

- Age appropriate social skills through modeling, group activities, storytelling and play, and direct instruction.
- Sensory and fine motor development through experiences with a wide variety of quality art media.
- Investigation of and interaction with the natural world.
- Kindergarten readiness skills through group times, games and language, literacy, and concrete numeracy activities.

- Gross motor development through movement and creative drama and use of our working playground.
- Music, singing, drama, and movement as a means of creative expression.
- Focus on experiential hands-on activities, or “learning by doing”

Our schedule is predictable and comfortable to children and can vary slightly with additions of field trips, science programming, etc. as children gain comfort and confidence with their classroom routine.

Though both classes utilize the same learning environment, the highly manipulative materials coupled with opportunity for creative play allow for in-depth experiences. As children progress through the curriculum, each class explores themes at a depth appropriate to their level of development.

ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE

Children have accessible and convenient places for materials and toys so they can help themselves without being assisted unnecessarily and without getting into one another’s way. Orderliness is facilitated by the teachers through setting up materials before, during and after play for optimum independent use of each center by the children. All equipment and supplies are carefully selected to meet specific educational objectives, and for fun.

LEARNING TARGETS

At BCNS we recognize and appreciate that each child is endowed with his or her own unique perceptions of the world and sets of skills and knowledge. We observe the following areas of growth for each child:

- Gross motor, balance, trajectory (such as throwing an object to hit a target)
- Fine motor skills and positioning of the hand and fingers at work with small objects and artist materials.
- Sensory exploration with artist materials and textured media such as clay and sand.
- Self care skills such as getting a drink, using restrooms, and washing up.
- Social skills such as waiting turns, using words, and engaging in cooperative play with peers.
- Self-regulation skills, self control in regards to emotions and actions.
- Oral language and vocabulary.
- Spatial reasoning, number sense, and sorting skills.
- Beginning letter sound recognition and phonemic awareness (rhyming, recognizing distinct sounds)
- Comprehension and sequencing in storytelling and literature.