



# PARKER EARLY LEARNING CENTER

808 Harlem Road Machesney Park, IL 61115 | Phone (815) 654-4559

## Philosophy Statement

**We believe** that the society we have tomorrow depends on how we nurture, educate and challenge our children today. The love, protection, wisdom and guidance we invest in our children today will return to us in productive, useful citizens of the future.

**We pledge** to promote the principles of self-esteem, self-discipline and respect for others, their diverse backgrounds, cultures and family structures. We will devote our energies to building harmonious environments in our homes, schools and communities.

**We commit** to reducing barriers that prevent the joining of resources in providing the most effective services to our youth, families and to the community. A focus on the whole child will guide our action.

**We encourage** families, citizens, community organizations, schools and government to work together to create a safe and positive environment for all children, to stimulate their love of learning and to inspire them to reach their full potential.

## Outstanding early childhood environment for children and families

Parker Center features include large rooms with space for active learning, restrooms and water in adjoining spaces to maximize time on task and bright attractive environments in order to encourage the development of good work habits in a comfortable setting. The school also has a Learning Center where young children can learn about libraries and books and a multi-purpose room that is used to provide opportunities for children to develop movement skills or as a community meeting area.

## Gateway to the district for children and families

Parents and children are provided a unique first look at Harlem schools through the Early Education Center. Opportunities for parent involvement and education are numerous. An introduction to district schools and district procedures is provided enabling a smooth transition into primary schools and increase opportunities for student success.



## Curriculum that encourages development of each child's potential

A written curriculum is followed with specified basic knowledge, skills and dispositions. Active, engaged, meaningful learning approaches enable children to apply what they are learning as they investigate topics of particular interest and learn to solve problems and represent what they know. An assessment system which includes a checklist based on national recommendations and a portfolio system enables teachers to monitor children's development in seven areas: language and literacy, mathematical thinking, scientific thinking, social studies, personal/social development and the arts.

## Strong emphasis on development of literacy

This critical period of early literacy development is supported by Early Literacy Specialists who work with classroom teachers. Together they ensure that students develop the skills to become successful readers and writers.

## Early Childhood Program

The Early Childhood Program provides diagnostic and instructional programs for exceptional children between the ages of 3-5 years old. The program strives for the early identification of children with special needs. Each child receives individualized developmental instruction based on pupil assessment, planned instructional objectives, behavioral objectives and individual rate of learning.