

Children in London now have a new and exciting place to explore drama, art, dance and music. The Performing Arts Preschool offers children between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 ½ a comprehensive and stimulating ½ day program designed to promote artistic, creative, academic and social skills. Most of all it's fun! Parents have been astounded that children can learn so much while playing.

Why a preschool of the arts? It has been proven that children involved with the arts perform better academically and socially. These benefits can be achieved by children as young as two years old. In fact, younger children are naturally drawn to the arts.

“Preschool children want to pretend, dress up, and get imaginative. They want to explore the messy art projects and dance.” says Rebecca Filice, co-owner of The Performing Arts Preschool. “We find our students really learn because we provide an encouraging atmosphere for their natural creativity.”

Even though parents can see the immediate benefits of The Performing Arts Preschool's program, the lasting effects might even be most important. By exposing children to the performing arts at a young age we set the stage for a lifelong appreciation of music, art, dance, and drama. Higher academic achievement, better self-esteem, and more engaging social skills can result from early exposure to the arts. “The really unfortunate thing is that arts have been the first subject to be cut in the school system. You really need to go outside of the regular system to find that experience for your children.” Tony Filice, co-owner of The Performing Arts Preschool explains. “The Performing Arts Preschool provides the arts experience parents want for their kids.”

At The Performing Arts Preschool children are team-taught by an Early Childhood Educator and teachers who specialize in art, drama, dance, or music. This team approach means that children get the benefit of an ECE academic teacher and the quality of teachers who are really artists.

In The Performing Arts Preschool children work and play together in three bright clean studios. The largest studio contains eight unique play centers filled with educational toys designed to spark imagination. Music from around the world plays in the background. “We expose children to as much international music as possible. Everything from African to Inuit!” explains Rebecca Filice. The largest studio is used for art and music classes because room is needed for group art projects and easels. Music class also requires lots of space for parades and musical movement games. The third studio is reserved for dance and drama. The special hardwood-sprung floor, bar, and mirror allows for proper dance training. Puppet theatres, props and costumes are brought out for drama class.

The unique emphasis at The Performing Arts Preschool is on cooperation not competition. At the preschool students learn about the arts without feeling judged. No comparisons are drawn between different children’s work. Even the youngest children are taught to appreciate each other’s differences. Every day is a celebration!

While the arts are the focus of The Performing Arts Preschool’s curriculum, academics are still an integral part of programming. Jolly phonics, the same phonics system taught

by many Thames Valley schools, is part of every morning or afternoon class. Basic sign language is taught to help children communicate when they cannot find the words.

Elizabeth Martin says “Preschoolers sometimes need extra help letting teachers and peers know what they want. Sign language gives them another tool for expressing themselves.”

Classes start in September and run until the end of June but class size is limited to keep classes intimate. The preschool is also licensed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. An Open House is being held August 29th, 30th and 31st from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. For more information about The Performing Arts Preschool call 657-5747 or check out the website at

info@theperformingartspreschool.com or www.theperformingartspreschool.com.