

# HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS

The **Get Set for School™** Pre-K curriculum is a proven success in preparing preschoolers for kindergarten

We developed this award-winning curriculum almost 10 years ago in response to requests for hands-on teaching materials and strategies that would make learning fun and easy for preschoolers. Today, **Get Set for School** features readiness & writing, language & literacy, and numbers & math programs that incorporate the same special ingredients to foster success:

- Lessons require minimal preparation time.
- Multisensory approach addresses different learning styles and invites active participation.
- Developmental progression builds on what children have previously learned.
- Friendly voice connects with teachers and students.

**Get Set for School** will bring your Pre-K classroom to life as your children sing, play, color and build their way toward a lifetime of joyful learning.

## Philosophy & Principles

The Get Set for School readiness curriculum uses a developmental approach that is based on the most relevant research about how young children learn best:

- Break difficult concepts into simple tasks
- Believe that every child can achieve
- Use really cool materials that make children want to learn



### What and How We Teach

Pre-K is a time of rapid growth and development. It's a year of preparation for kindergarten and for future success in school and in life. To achieve, children need to be imaginative, independent, and actively involved in their own learning.

### Imaginative

Children learn naturally through everyday experiences with people, places, and things. They are born imitators and scientists who thrive on active hands-on interaction with the physical world. They learn through play and through physical and sensory experiences.

We want children to be imaginative explorers, and believe that teachers and parents support curiosity by what they place in a child's environment. Children play with what's there. Including fun, engaging materials throughout the learning space affects how children feel, what they do, and how they learn. Get Set for School materials accommodate both teacher-directed and

student-initiated playful learning, because we know that sparking the imagination leads to a lifelong love of learning.

## **Independent**

We support capable children by how we teach. Much of what preschoolers learn is incidental—whatever is around them, what they hear and see. We deliberately build familiarity and competency with the music CDs that we play for them, the words that we use, and the way in which we use materials and teach lessons.

We also know that children should learn explicitly. Basic readiness skills should be taught systematically. It's not up to children to decide how to read, write, and count. We teach them the way we read and write from top to bottom and left to right. We teach them how to hold a crayon and how to write letters. We teach them key skills to advance their competency and success - so they develop the skills to be independent as they enter school.

Teachers need support to foster independence in children. Our materials provide flexibility for the teacher and offer activities in a developmental sequence. Ensuring mastery of one skill before introducing another builds the competence and confidence children need for independent problem solving.

## **Involved**

Pre-K is social and challenging. Four-year-olds are new to being involved with and caring about others, sharing, waiting a turn, and following the teacher. Some children in every group have personal challenges with these skills.



We use music to encourage inclusive participation and development of social skills alongside important physical skills, language, and early readiness skills. We also promote group play and accessibility so that children of different abilities can participate and learn with and from each other. We believe that children who are involved with each other are better able to focus their attention to follow the teacher actively.

Our materials also encourage family involvement to continue learning activities at home. Many activities have take-home components to encourage children to form connections between learning in school and home situations.



# Research

## A Strong Pre-K Program Supports Lifelong Learning Success

Young children who develop strong foundation skills in preschool are better prepared to master the more complex and rigorous demands of school.

- Get Set for School draws from the best research and years of experience to provide a complete curriculum that includes: readiness & writing, language & literacy, numbers & math.
- Get Set for School helps children develop core readiness skills during the crucial years when “85 percent of the foundation for a child’s intellect, personality, and skills is formed.”
- Preschoolers learn some of their most important skills through play. Get Set for School uses hands-on, play based instruction to give young learners innumerable opportunities for spontaneous and meaningful learning. Playful learning also helps engage young children and helps build a lifelong love of learning.
- Physical development and social/behavioral skills are particularly important in preschool. Get Set for School helps preschoolers develop both fine and gross motor skills before they can master such skills as writing.
- Literacy includes phonological awareness, letter knowledge, concepts about print, vocabulary, and language. These abilities are interrelated so that development in one area supports and is necessary for development in another. Get Set for School provides an integrated approach to language and literacy to make learning meaningful and engaging.
- Math, like literacy, begins at birth. Children are learning math concepts based on their interactions with their environment. Get Set for School gets children sorting, clapping, counting, measuring, and building numbers to help them understand—and enjoy—math concepts.

