

# The Goddard School Practicum

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Fall 2022

# The School



(Location I worked at)

- This location is in McMurray, PA and focuses on catering to the children's needs throughout their early milestones.
- The Goddard School teaches children from infant age to up to kindergarten age.



(Logo of the Goddard schools)



# Dress Code

- All staff must follow a dress code. The teachers and support teachers follow a different dress code than the staff in the office (Owners, Directors, Assistant Director)
- Since I was considered a support teacher, I wore a shirt with the school's logo (which was given to me), dark pants that were either black or navy, and closed-toed shoes.



(One of the shirts that must be worn due to the dress code)

# The Entryway

- It is designed to ensure the children's and staff's safety.
- There are two sets of doors: main door leading outside and second door leading into the school.
- In order to enter the building, you must have a passcode and your hand scanned.



(Machine you use to enter your code and scan your hand to get into the building)



# Infant Classroom

- This classroom deals with the youngest children. They can start at the school as early as 6 weeks old.
- In this room, they focus on helping the infants develop through sharing with others and exploring the world around them.
- Once the infants start to walk, they move up to the next classroom: First Steps.



(Play area in classroom)

(Nap area in classroom)



# First Steps Classroom

- This is the next room that deals with the very young children. They are at the beginning stages of walking.
- The goals are the same as in the infant room however, they also focus on the children developing their motor skills. Some ways this is done includes foam ramps/stairs that help with their walking and doing tactile activities (playing with blocks, playdoh, drawing, etc.).
- Their First Steps classroom is nearly identical to the Pre-Toddler and Toddler room since they focus on the same goals.



(First Steps classroom)



# Get Set Classroom

- The Get Set classroom is the last classroom on the “younger” side. This is the room that gets the children ready to head over to the Pre-Kindergarten classroom.
- Here, these children have more autonomy and independence than the other children in the younger classrooms. They also have a better understanding of the world than the younger children.
- They can differentiate between their colors, types of schemas, and right from wrongs better than the younger children.



(Get Set classroom)

# Junior Kindergarten Classroom

- This is the classroom that the children are in right before they move on to Kindergarten. It is also the classroom that I spent most of my time in. I mentioned a Pre-Kindergarten classroom in the previous slide. That classroom is identical to this classroom since they focus on the same goals.
- The goals of this classroom is to further the children's knowledge on topics they learned previously. They are learning to spell different words, figure out the weather, properly say the date, and start to develop math skills.
- I also noticed that they utilized multiple variations of the token economy idea for the children overall but also with specific children as well.



(Junior Kindergarten classroom)



# Kindergarten Classroom

- The Kindergarten classroom is the final classroom in the Goddard School. Once the children “graduate” from here, they move on to whichever school their parents chose to further their education.
- These children are far more independent and autonomous than the other children in the school. They have better reading comprehension, math skills, everyday skills, etc.
- I also spend more time in this classroom as well but not nearly as much time as I did in the Junior Kindergarten classroom.



(Kindergarten classroom)

# Schedules

- Other than the infant classroom, all classrooms follow a schedule. The reason the infant classroom does not follow the same schedule as the other classrooms is because each infant has their own schedule when it comes to their feeding times, napping times, etc.
- Each schedule is a little different to ensure that each classroom gets a recess time but other than that, they are all similar. There is always two snack times, activity time, lunch time, and centers.
- I included a picture of the schedule in the Junior Kindergarten room since that was the room I was in the most. The other schedules are similar, the only difference is the times for each activity/center.

JR. KINDERGARTEN	
Schedule	
Magnolias	
7:00	Open in Pre-K/ Greetings/ Morning Routines - Interest Center Activities: Dramatic Play, Blocks, Manipulatives, Art
8:00	Transition to Jr. K/Interest Center Activities: Dramatic Play, Blocks, Manipulatives, Art
9:15	Clean Up/Morning Meeting Jobs/Weather/Pledge of Allegiance/Songs/Counting
9:30	Outside Activity Time/ Gross Motor Skills
10:00	Morning Snack/Bathroom*/ Wash Hands
10:20	Story Time
10:30	Large Group Circle Time Attendance, Calendar
10:40	Large Group Activities Music/Movement/Language Arts/Cognitive Development/Science/Technology/Spanish/Sign Language/Handwriting
11:00	Interest Center Activities/Outdoor Classroom Math, Dramatic Play, Blocks, Manipulatives, Art, Computer, Writing Center, Science, Cognitive
11:50	Clean Up/Bathroom*/ Wash Hands
12:00	Lunch
12:45	Bathroom*/ Wash Hands/ Clean Up
1:00	Rest Time
3:00	Bathroom*/ Wash Hands
3:10	Outdoor Classroom Exploration/Music/Movement/Gross Motor Activities
3:30	Outside Activity Time/ Gross Motor Skills
4:00	Bathroom*/ Wash Hands/Afternoon Snack
4:20	Afternoon Interest Center Activities Dramatic Play, Blocks, Manipulatives, Art, Computer
5:30	Departure/ Evening Learning Centers/ Farewell/Transition to Pre K
6:00	School Closed

\*Children's schedules are individual!

THE GODDARD SCHOOL™  
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

(Schedule for the Junior Kindergarten classroom)



# Art Work

- One way the children learn is through active play and art. I've noticed they love whenever they get to do an art project.
- The younger children get to do simpler art projects such as coloring a picture or creating a picture from shapes. One art project that I found fascinating to see was when the children in the Toddler room glued shapes to a piece of paper to make a house. It was easy to see that they all had a schema of what a house looked like.

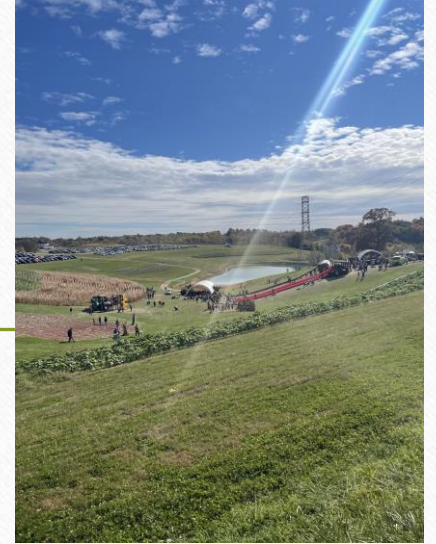


(Artwork from the Toddler classroom. Shows the children's schemas of apples and a house.)



# Field Trips

- The Goddard School also takes the children out to field trips or brings the field trips to the school.
- One most recent field trip was to Simmons Farm. Here, the children participated in fall activities such as picking fall flowers and pumpkins, looking at the farm animals there, and enjoying the play area there.
- A field trip they brought to the school was with the fire department. They had firemen, firetrucks, and the fire dog at the school. The children learned about fire safety and what to do in case there were a fire at the school.



(Trip to Simmons Farm)





# Field Trips Cont.



(Fire department field trip)



(Field trip to the zoo)



# Fun Activities At The School

- Along with field trips, the school also creates and participates in many fun activities that allow the children to explore their creative side, release any stress/pent up energy, and hang out with their friends from other classrooms.



(Pumpkin decorating contest)



(Children showing off their Halloween costumes)





# Fun Activities Cont.



(A puppet show at the beginning of the school year)



(The school's carnival night at a local church)



(Tie-dyeing shirts)

# Scholastic Book Fair

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- One of the things I helped with while working at the school was setting up the Scholastic Book Fair.
- Many of the books that were put out for the children (their parents) to buy taught them lessons on sharing, being kind to others, ideas on right and wrong, etc.
- I enjoyed being able to see the children get really excited about the book fair. It reminded me of when I was younger and the joy the book fair brought me.



# Decorations

- Each classroom has a theme that coincides with their lesson plans. In order to better incorporate these themes, the teachers will decorate their classrooms with objects they had made and artwork the children have made.
- The staff in the office also decorates the building outside of the classrooms to make the rest of the building festive for the children, parents, and rest of the staff.



(First day of school decorations)



(Fall decorations on door leading to building)

# Overall Thoughts

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- Upon completion, I really enjoyed this practicum experience. It was very interesting to see the different milestones throughout the young children. I also thought it was interesting how they utilized different psychology aspects when teaching the children.
- In the Junior Kindergarten classroom, there were two children who had learning disabilities. Working with these children was a challenge at the beginning since I needed to learn how each child learned and where they were at socially. However, as time progressed, it became easier, and they ended up being two of my favorite children to work with.
- I think the information and experience I learned while working at the Goddard School is very valuable. As I further my education, I will be able to utilize what I learned there when it comes to me working with children or those with a learning disability.