

Drew Charter School Pre-K Program

WEBSITE: www.drewcharterschool.org

Brief description (short background-history-philosophy-best practices):

Drew opened its first Pre-K class for 20 students in the Fall of 2007 and a second Pre-K class to serve a total of 40 students in 2008. While our primary objective is the delivery of a quality program and academic readiness for Drew students, an overarching goal is that through the efforts of the faculties and staffs of the Rollins Center and the Drew Charter School, this program may impact broader efforts in the Atlanta area, our state and nation in order to provide quality care and education to all Pre-K students. Paramount to the Pre-K program is an emphasis on the oral language development of the children in the class. We believe the importance of oral language development in fostering the cognitive, literacy, social and emotional development of young children through explicit instruction, classroom discourse, and dialogue between and among teachers and students is essential to helping young children reach their fullest potential and to be successful in school and eventually the work place.

Specific curricula used:

The curriculum used in the Pre-K is based on the framework from the Bank Street developmental interaction approach and is comprehensive in nature. This approach combines foundations from developmental psychology (e.g., Piaget) with the educational tenets of John Dewey. Principles derived from the curricular guidelines used in the preschool programs at the Atlanta Speech School are incorporated within this framework as well. To further support the language and literacy instructional process for our students, the *Opening the World of Learning* (OWL) program is utilized as well as the *Growing with Mathematics* program. Each of these curricular programs provides teachers with instructional tools to help build language skills needed to foster literacy and cognitive development.

Classrooms by age group: Infant Toddler Threes Fours: 2

Classrooms by type: Pre-K Head Start Early Head Start Other: _____

Other Services (available to children and/or families):

The Drew Charter School was established in August 2000 as part of the revitalization of the East Lake community. The school serves as an integral part of the community. The children and families at Drew Charter School have numerous resources available to them through the many partnerships within both the school and community. Partnerships at Drew include: East Lake Family YMCA, East Lake Sheltering Arms and Early Learning Center, Georgia State University, Oglethorpe University, Rollins Center of the Atlanta Speech School, and The Westminster Schools. Within the community, families may receive services through a number of agencies including Mercy Housing, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and Consumer Credit Counseling Service.

Parent involvement program / parent requirements (if any):

Parents attend informational meetings and parent conferences for updates on student progress and also work as volunteers in the classrooms. Parents may volunteer to read to students, work in centers, participate in special projects and/or chaperone field trips.

Teacher qualifications:

Minimum education:
Minimum experience:
Other requirements:

Teachers

Bachelor's degree
NA
GA certification in ECE

Assistants

CDA and/or Bachelor's degree

Funding sources and percentages:

Tuition ___% Federal ___% State 25% Foundation grants 75%