



“There are so many wonderful things about WPCS -- the community, the access to teachers, the ability to offer input to decisions about the school -- and we feel so fortunate that our entire family plays a role in our child’s educational experience. – Rachel, Lead Parent

WPCS FOUNDING VALUES

//Learning through play and providing a student-led educational environment

//Supporting diversity and compassion

//Providing individualized care and seeing children as full human beings

//Engaging with and teaching about nature, as well as spending significant time outdoors

//Maintaining a low teacher to student ratio (1:5)

//Keeping costs low through parent cooperation in all our operations

A COOPERATIVE

The West Philadelphia Cooperative Preschool (WPCS) began in 2005 as a rotation of parents providing child-centered education and care for young children in their own homes. As more families joined the coop, we moved our school to its current location at 4625 Baltimore Ave, in West Philadelphia. WPCS has grown to include 3 teachers, an after-care program, and more than twenty families in our membership. We rely on the diverse strengths, energy, and talents of all our families.

As members of the cooperative, each parent has a voice in the decisions that affect not only their child but also the direction of the school. Every family serves an active role as a volunteer by fulfilling a Parent Job, contributing cooping hours, and by attending Town Hall meetings and other school-wide functions.



**West Philadelphia Cooperative School
4625 Baltimore Ave Philadelphia, PA 19143**

Visit us online for inquiries & more information
www.westphillycoopschool.com

WEST PHILADELPHIA COOPERATIVE SCHOOL



WPCS is a preschool serving children from 2-5 years old. We use a play-based, emergent curriculum and are committed to supporting diversity and fostering compassion and respect within our school community. Our children benefit from mixed age group interaction and ample time spent playing and learning outdoors. We build community through parent involvement at every level of school operations.

Open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am - 2 pm, with optional early and after care September through June. Our school offers flexible, two- to five-day enrollment options and summer camp in June, July, and August.

OUR PHILOSOPHY



“When children are allowed to take risks, they make meaningful discoveries. Teachers at wpcs give children the freedom to get messy and experiment with materials in ways that empower them to direct their own learning. By taking responsibility for their risks, children learn to take care of themselves and others and to solve problems independently.”
- Teacher Emily

CHILD-CENTERED LEARNING

Our “emergent curriculum” is constantly unfolding based on what fascinates, excites, and concerns the children most. Teachers interweave storytelling, art, science, math, dance, and music into the rhythms of the day, as they lead the children in play-based, experiential education.

INDEPENDENCE

Our teachers empower children by supporting them as they learn to complete daily tasks independently, such as putting on their own shoes, assisting younger children with zippers or jackets, or using the toilet.



COMPASSION & DIVERSITY

Our primary goal is to raise conscientious and engaged children who participate positively in their communities. Our hope is to foster a school community that reflects the rich cultural diversity of our surrounding neighborhood and city. As the diversity within our school shifts, we embrace and celebrate the richness of our differences and commonalities. By valuing each person’s unique point of view, we create a positive and nurturing community.



A CITY SCHOOL

We take advantage of the “neighborhood classroom” by taking walking and trolley trips around the neighborhood and city. Locally, we visit the Kingsessing Library, Mariposa Food Coop, Calvary Center for Culture, various playgrounds and parks, and we garden at the Pentridge Children’s Garden. On field trips we have explored Bartram’s Garden, Spiral Q Puppet Theater, Mill Creek Farm, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Penn Museum, and the local fire station.