



## BELLEVUE SCHOOLS ALL DAY LEARNING

ADVENTURES IN EXCELLENCE

### Spanish Dual Language Preschool Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why should I consider dual language preschool for my child?**

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), brain research has determined that the window for learning language is widest from birth to 7 years of age. Long term, children who have had a dual language experience in early childhood show greater cognitive flexibility, great ability to form concepts and greater creativity and problem solving skills in verbal and math problems.

#### **What are the goals of a dual language school day preschool?**

The dual language preschool has three main goals: pre-school readiness and social skills; develop and support bilingualism/bi-literacy; and, promote cross-cultural appreciation.

The Foundation for Child Development has recommended voluntary full school day preschool programs for three and four year old children. A growing body of research shows that children in well-designed preschools that are connected to a full-day Kindergarten continue to make gains throughout elementary school. The school day preschool will be using curriculum that will provide a foundation for learning. We will use the Creative Curriculum framework to assess children's skills and develop lesson plans to address their individual needs. We are working in partnership with district literacy and math curriculum experts to evaluate our pilot programs. We are also adopting the Virtues Project, an approach that the majority of Bellevue elementary schools use to create respectful classroom culture.

The children will have a core group of teachers and assistants that will work with them throughout the day. The National Association for the Education of Young Children has identified that having a consistent, primary relationship with an early learning teacher, is key to a quality experience for children.

#### **How much instruction will be in Spanish? How much instruction will be in English?**

English and Spanish will be spoken and taught daily. Instruction will occur in both languages. Children will also experience "environmental" English and Spanish during interactions with their friends and teachers. The morning will be centered on language arts and math activities. The afternoon will include arts, social sciences and science. This is modeled after the half-day and all day Bellevue School District Kindergarten classroom structure.

#### *A Child's Learning Starts at Birth*

"Our mission is to provide every student with a top-of-the-line college preparatory education so that they can enter and succeed in the college or university of their choice." **Bellevue Public Schools mission**



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### **How will the Spanish Dual Language preschool be different from the school day preschool?**

The Spanish Immersion/Dual Language preschool will use the same curriculum as their peers in the school day preschool program while also having the opportunity to become familiar with a second language. There will be at least one fluent Spanish speaking teacher in the classroom. Children will be taught in an educational environment that is multi-cultural. Instructional staff will use the Creative Curriculum framework to help children learn in four areas of development: social/emotional; physical; cognitive; and, language in both English and Spanish.

### **Is this dual language program right for your family?**

On a recent survey of families with children enrolled in dual language programs, it was found that 93.6% said that they chose dual language so that their child would be able to speak, read, and write in two languages. Other reasons chosen included: to be more successful in a global society (63.1%); to be more successful in school (61.3%); and, to be comfortable relating to different people (60.7%). Children who have a love of learning, age-appropriate language development, support and encouragement from home will find success in the dual language program.

Your child is a good match for the dual language program if he or she:

- Is developmentally on target in his or her first language
- Expresses an interest in different people, places and things

The program is a good fit for families that:

- Enjoy learning about a variety of cultures: the people, traditions, art, and history
- Support learning a second language and encourage practicing the language

### **Will my child be able to nap or not nap in the dual language preschool program?**

The dual language preschool allows for individual differences, even between children the same age. There will be an opportunity for all children to nap. There will be a “quiet activity” time when some children will nap and others will have additional time to learn through play. This also provides flexibility for the 3 year old who is ready to give up naps, or the 4 year old that still needs a nap on some days. The program is flexible and can allow each child to develop at their own pace.

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