

# GODDARD SCHOOL PUPILS DO WELL ON COMPUTERIZED ASSESSMENT

By Linda Stein • Monday, August 29, 2011



*The Goddard School owner Ellen Jakubowski and student Holly share a playful moment at the school in Montgomery Township. Photo by Mark C Psoras*

**MONTGOMERYVILLE** - Ellen Jakubowski, owner of The Goddard School® in Montgomeryville, touted the learning advances that The Goddard School students have attained as shown through computerized assessment tests.

Jakubowski said the school, which serves infants through kindergarten children, is not a day-care center but a preschool. All the teachers have degrees and write their own lesson plans so “their creativity comes out,” she said.

Beginning in 2009, the school was a Goddard pilot school for the Children’s

Progress Academic Assessment, the computerized testing of various skills. The preschool teachers then develop lessons to help their students learn those skills.

The CPAA, which was developed from research at Columbia University, assesses children’s early literacy and math skills. Compared with other pre-kindergarten children who took the CPAA, 64 percent of The Goddard students scored above expectation in numeracy, 60 percent scored above expectation in reading, and 56 percent scored above expectations in pattern recognition, according to data from the company. The Goddard School, based in King of Prussia, has 370 franchise schools in 37 states. The test results were from 4,200 children at 160 Goddard Schools.

The children take the CPAA, which seems like a computer game, three times a year.

Director Colleen Marmor said the school emphasizes fun learning experiences and the curriculum is flexible to meet the individual children’s needs and interests.

“It’s all done through playing,” said Jakubowski. A “pleasant preschool experience” will result in children who want to go to school and develop a “love of learning,” she said.

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The CPAA seems like a fun game for the children, who do not know their skills are being assessed. During 10 to 15 minutes, the computer software will talk to the children in an encouraging way if they miss something, she said. In addition to using the information to aid plan lessons, the teachers share the results with the children's parents, Marmor said.

Some 120 children attend the Montgomeryville school, which is open from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Jakubowski co-owns the school with her husband, Stan. This September she will begin offering a full-day kindergarten program, she said.

"We're really excited about that," she said. Also, students who attend half-day kindergarten in the North Penn School District can continue in a kindergarten enrichment program.