

## THE GODDARD SCHOOL MEETS YOUR EARLY EDUCATION NEEDS

---

*Tri County Record • Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

**C**hoosing the right school for a child may be one of the most complicated decisions parents have to make. An estimated five million children are in preschool and pre-kindergarten programs, and the number is growing. According to the Families and Work Institute, children benefit from quality programs with competent faculty and good ratios. They suffer fewer behavioral troubles, have larger expressive vocabularies, feel close to their teachers, and enjoy more complex, less aggressive play with peers.

According to Kyle D. Pruett, M.D., in his book *Me, Myself and I*, "Schools can help a great deal by having children listen to both read and told stories, and then discussing their content. This encourages a sense of cooperation by listening and playing with others and rehearsing self-reliance. Quality schools can further assist children by allowing them to practice sharing and using their imaginations to learn language through play, songs and stories."

Bonnie Karwat, owner of The Goddard School® located at 2201 Valley Road in Morgantown supports Dr. Pruett's assertion by adding that at their School "children are encouraged to explore learning centers for creative art, math, dramatic play, science and computers; to ask questions; and to take time making friends and socializing."

In Goddard's warm, loving atmosphere caring teachers support the healthy development of children from six-weeks to six-years-old. The year-round program provides consistency for your child, while the choice of either a half-or full-day schedule offers flexibility for your family.

When assessing a program, look for one that encourages learning through play. Play and imagination are possibly the most important resources children possess. In fact, Dr. Pruett stresses the connection between play and imagination by suggesting that "imagination surfaces when a child takes what they have learned through play about how past experiences can be symbolized, and starts to 'imagine' things, beyond mere repetition."

"Our classrooms are arranged to encourage imagination and play for children," adds Bonnie. "They include easily accessible age-appropriate educational materials, art supplies, books and musical instruments. Our education director and teachers work as a team to provide enriching activities to enhance the relationship between play and learning. Each day the teachers balance quiet activities, spirited music and movement and plenty of outdoor climbing, running and jumping."

The Goddard School offers the FLEX Learning Program™ based on a unique learning continuum that encompasses developmental guidelines, formative assessments and child-focused lesson plans that are delivered in a creative and fun environment with a child-centered approach to meet each child's individual needs. Goddard's program combines core curriculum resources and enrichment programs, including:

- Fitness
- Music
- Sign Language
- Yoga
- Manners
- Nutrition
- Spanish

Choosing the right school means your child will make friends, discover that learning is fun and feel safe every day. To learn more about The Goddard School located on 2201 Valley Road in Morgantown, please call (610) 286-3300, and ask for Bonnie, or visit Goddard on the web at: [www.goddardschool.com](http://www.goddardschool.com).