



The Malvern School of Medford

Medford now has another option in early childhood care and education

By Glori Gayster

The Malvern School has come to Medford. Malvern has been in operation throughout the Delaware Valley since 1988, and offers year-round educational programs for children between the ages of six weeks and eight years of age. “We are very excited to join the community of Medford. The people there have been more than welcoming,” says Director of New School Development Diane Daily. “The area is such a great fit for our mission—a dedication to educating young children through diverse and innovative programming. We are committed to exceeding families’ expectations by providing the finest curriculum, staff, and environment available anywhere.”

Quality Education at Every Stage

All of Malvern’s programs are designed to meet or exceed the standards established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Founded in 1926, NAEYC is the nation’s largest early childhood accrediting organization, whose mission it is to create standards that focus on health and safety, well-trained teachers, excellent teaching materials and challenging yet developmentally

sound curriculum. “Receiving this accreditation is a long process but extremely important to us,” Daily says. “Currently, seven of our twenty Malvern Schools are NAEYC-accredited, including

most recently our Erial location. We continuously make every effort for all of The Malvern Schools to achieve this accreditation.”

According to Malvern Director of Education Meghan Corker, when it comes to early childhood development and learning, the “who, what, where, when and how” of teaching is key. The importance of an age-appropriate curriculum and an awareness that each child learns in his or her own way can make all the difference. A child who feels left behind can become frustrated. Another, who may find a skill easy, might become bored. The Malvern School offers year-round educational programs crafted for individual age groups, including infants, toddlers, preschoolers, pre-kindergartners and school-age children. Taught in Malvern’s hands-on environment, the various curricula immerse children in science, language, multicultural activities, self-help and motor skills, arts and crafts, music and movement.



The Malvern School ensures each staff member, from the executive director to all assistant teachers, share the company’s dedication to children. Each school is led by an executive director who is respon-

sible for overall operations and for meeting all standards set forth by The Malvern School. They are a resource, motivator and communicator within the school as well as with parents. The executive director also works side-by-side with a director of education, who is in place to ensure all areas of the educational programs perform at NAEYC standards. In this role, the director of education also conducts formal and informal observations of the teaching staff.

The leadership also includes an on-site curriculum coordinator and health and safety coordinator. While the curriculum coordinator is available to mentor teachers and review curriculum plans and daily profiles, the health and safety coordinator schedules monthly fire drills, maintains safety supplies and monitors daily sanitation practices.

All teachers at The Malvern School are college-degreed and experienced. They receive on-going training throughout the year within the individual school and in cluster-style meetings with various staff from different locations. Daily adds that “when it comes to evaluation, we want parents to have input. Parents are surveyed within the first 30 days and annually as part of our Quality Standards Review, known as QSR. These results factor in to our staff recognition programs and reviews.”

A Place for Well-Rounded Learning

Corker says that beyond the ABCs of a high quality curriculum, early childhood programs need to address the curiosity and adventurous aspects of children –trying new arts and crafts, experimenting with nature, learning to share through show and tell. Sitting in one room for hours is stifling even for adults but for toddlers and pre-schoolers, it can hinder growth. The lay-out of every Malvern School is specifically designed to enhance each child’s learning experience and is customized to meet the developmental needs of children. In addition to age-appropriate classroom settings, The Malvern School of Medford has two multi-sensory designated rooms for children: the Fascination Station for the First Step and Toddler levels and the Discovery Room for children aged three years and up. Both focus on sensory exploration, allowing children to see, touch and feel their experiences as they learn. Says Daily, “When you walk into these rooms, you will see children thinking, learning, lis-

tening, experimenting, drawing, building, creating, laughing and especially smiling.”

Communication with Parents Is Key

No matter the age of a child, Malvern Executive Director Cari Fowler says, “Parents are eager to hear all about their child’s daily experiences, accomplishments and well-being. Did they say a new word? Take a step? Eat all their lunch?

The Malvern School of Medford provides parents with a daily profile for each child,. It covers the curriculum and other activities for that day along with such information as when a child napped, what the child ate, and who they child played with. In addition, the school offers an activities and snack calendar as well as a monthly newsletter. Parent/teacher conferences scheduled twice a year.

Recognizing that issues arise throughout the day, The Malvern School staff is available at all times during regular hours of operation. “It’s not uncommon for our educators to get a phone call to discuss one’s son or daughter,” Daily says. “We welcome it. In fact, there are times when staff members may capture a memorable moment with a digital camera and email it to a mom or dad so they don’t miss it.” ✦

The Malvern School of Medford is located at 5 Eayrestown Road and is enrolling now for its full and half-day 2010 fall term. For more information or to schedule an individual tour, call (609) 654-4500 or visit www.MalvernSchool.com

