



# What Happens in Wrap Around Kindergarten?

The Wrap program's curriculum is designed to complement and support the children's kindergarten experience, not duplicate it. Although each Wrap classroom has its own personality and rhythm, the Wrap instructors maintain a uniform approach in what they teach and how they teach it, consistent with the methodology and philosophy of the children's kindergarten classroom. Here is a quick overview of some of the exciting things that happen in Wrap!

**Learning Centers:** Each week new and exciting centers are established in core subjects. Specifically, each week a Math Center, a Writing Center, an Investigation Center, and an Art Center are developed:



**Math Center** – focuses on patterning, pattern blocks, geo-boards, shapes, using dice to count, sorting buttons, working with coins and writing numerals, simple addition and subtraction, measurement and weights. We also utilize iPads to enhance our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.



**Writing Center** – attention on writing upper and lower case letters while completing an Alphabet Book along with illustrating a picture that begins with the letter of the week. Students also practice reading and writing sight words utilizing Rainbow Writing (\*their kindergarten teacher teaches Rainbow Writing.)



**Investigation Center** – allows students to work on a multitude of science experiments such as investigating a sink/float activity, research color mixing, making volcanoes and slime! Learning can be messy but fun!



**Art Center** – exploration of different mediums and concepts are used for children to create their own masterpieces! Fine-motor skills are further strengthened by using scissor, play dough and small craft items. Students use watercolor paints, crayons, markers, colored pencils, chalk and paint in the production of the various projects. Many different mediums are explored. Quite often literature inspires our art projects!

**Reading Workshop:** We begin each day reading/looking at books from our book baskets. We have more than 60 easy reader books. The book collection is supplemented with books from our school library, reflecting each month's theme. Children are encouraged to pair/share sight word books. We also learn through Time for Kids (a Time Magazine subscription) on a weekly basis.

Read, Read, Read! We are huge advocates of reading aloud to the children and they love it! Each day in class, children enjoy a variety of literature. So much can be learned through this engaging and entertaining activity. We hope you enjoy reading with your child at home too!

**Writing Workshop:** Children will create their own journals. Right from the start, students are encouraged to illustrate a picture and then write a sentence utilizing S T R E T C H spelling (phonetic awareness) describing their picture. We share our Journal Entries and the children are very proud authors and illustrators!

**Cooperative Activities:** The children work cooperatively through many activities. Some of these activities include playing number bingo, the memory game, and dry erase boards to practice writing numbers, letters and sight words.

**Free Centers:** When time allows we spend time using our free time which offer a wide selection of choices; a sand/rice table, puzzles, magnetic letters, easel for painting, puppeteer station, kitchen area, building toys such as train tracks, wooden blocks, marble construction, Legos, and Bristle Blocks. Students may also use any of the materials from the core Learning Centers. They love to use the art center and create their own projects using scissors, glue, paper, markers, crayon, etc. They are so proud of their creations!

**Musical Activities:** Music and dance is often infused into the curriculum. The Investigation Center may include "Echo, Echo, Echolocation" providing the children with a fun, engaging way to learn about bats, the children's favorite "State of the Week" song helps introduce them to that state, "Freeze Dance" teaches listening skills, and "Strike Up the Band" uses musical instruments to recognize different patterns in music. Music also plays a role in our Reading/Writing curriculum including songs that relate to a letter of the week. Holidays are often celebrated in song as well, including a class favorite, "Please, Mr. Columbus!" Musical games are also used to get children moving, such as "Going on a Bear Hunt".

**States of the Week:** One of the student's favorite parts of the week! Students learn about a different state each week and try to guess the "State of the Week" using clues such as the state bird, state tree, or an attraction. Once the state has been guessed correctly the license plate is revealed! They love locating it on their own map of the United States and learning about each state's individual facts. Ask them about their favorite state and see how much they know!

**Technology:** Children are actively engaged using a variety of educational iPad apps (you can download them too!) including Tellagami, Stack the States, Hungry Fish, Alphabet Tracing, Animal Puzzles, and Sock Puppets (just to name a few!) The use of iPads serves as an excellent resource; accessing information on an endless number of topics!

**Assemblies:** Wrap students are invited to attend assemblies that are offered during and after the Wrap class.

**Outside Play:** As long as the weather cooperates we may go outside for 15 minutes to play on the playground. In addition to the playground equipment, children can play with hula hoops, balls or draw with chalk on the black top area. Socialization and physical activity are both such an important part of a child's development.

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As you can see, although a lot of fun happens in Wrap there is also a lot of learning and growing. Want to read more about what happens in your child's Wrap classroom? Visit the Ramsey Community School page on the district website and select "Our Staff" on the yellow ribbon for Wrap Newsletters.