

where
children
and their
ideas
are taken
seriously™



Our Mission

Park West's mission is to respect children as growing individuals, provide support and varied opportunities to further their thinking, and help them develop a love of learning. We want to meet each child, and each family, where they are, and to foster a community within which optimal growth and learning can take place.



We aim to do this by:



- Creating an emotionally secure environment with trusted teachers to guide, collaborate, and help extend each child's thinking
- Offering a climate of mutual respect in which children are taken seriously and where children are allowed the chance to formulate, express and try out their ideas.
- Providing opportunities to learn about the arts, science, numbers and literacy, in meaningful ways through our play-based curriculum.
- Incorporating parents into daily school life as they assist in the classroom and perform the functions of our co-op.
- Refining and extending our own thinking around early childhood education ideas by studying, deliberating and discussing the theories we actively apply in our classrooms.

Play is the vehicle through which children acquire skills, access knowledge and retain information.



Our cooperative

Park West has been a parent cooperative since our inception in 1971. This means that parents contribute to the overall management of school, by serving either on a committee or on the Board of Directors, and support Park West's fundraising goals. Parents also have the unique opportunity to assist regularly in their child's classroom, where they come to know the rhythms of group life, along with their child's peers and teachers. Assisting in the classroom allows parents to see teachers in action and learn new and effective ways of communicating with their children.

How we're structured

To help keep parents involved in high-level decision making as well as day-to-day operations, we're managed by a board of directors and committees that are comprised of parents.

Our building

Park West Cooperative resides in a 2019 Urban Land Institute Vision Award winning home, a home renovated in partnership with our robust school community, alumni families and exemplary staff. The space allows teachers to thoughtfully guide students through meaningful play, development and interaction amongst other children by drawing on the beautifully reimagined spaces that are designed just for our youngest learners. We do this while also respecting the history of the building and the vibrancy of the community surrounding it.

Why is play important?

We know that play benefits every facet of young children's development. It is through play that children show initiative, create plans, take risks, gain confidence, negotiate to reach a consensus and try out something that may be just a glimmer of an idea. Play is how children explore the world. Literacy and numeracy, along with the arts, science and social sciences, are integrated into the classroom in meaningful ways. Under teachers' guidance, children construct knowledge and acquire skills while engaged in play. What children get from play is so complex, so rich, so personal, so inspiring.

Who we are

We're a diverse group of teachers who are experts in early childhood education. We've dedicated ourselves to understanding and developing teaching methods that cater to each child's individual needs so they can grow in a positive way as an individual and as a member of a group.

A community of involved parents

Park West Cooperative provides a stimulating and nurturing preschool environment where parents play an integral part in their child's first school experience.



Being part of a cooperative allows parents to be involved with the teachers and children that influence their child's development during this early stage of their life.

For admissions and
financial aid information
or to apply, please
visit our website:
parkwestcoop.org



YEARS OF

PARK WEST
CO-OP NURSERY SCHOOL

2214 N. Bissel Street
Chicago, IL 60614

773-327-1115
parkwestcoop.org
