

*Preschool is so expensive- Is it really worth the money?*

I am often asked, "What is the 'value add' of sending a child to preschool? Is it really worth the money, because all they do is play?"

Sending a child to preschool for the first time can be emotionally frightening for both child and parent, and is also somewhat expensive. However, looking at the whole scheme of a child's life, paying for a preschool education is quite probably the least expensive investment, which yields the most "profit" for a parent's money. Research has shown time and again that children who have attended a play-based, developmental preschool program excel in the basic academic skills in all subject areas. Children also demonstrate advanced motor skills and score higher in behavioral and communicative skills. Looking further into the research, children attending play-based, developmental preschool programs prove to have greater academic success through the high school years. (Papalia, Diane E., 9<sup>th</sup> ed.) In addition, one of the best predictors of school success is the ability to control impulses and self-regulate one's own behavior. Children who can self-regulate through recognizing that their own ideas, beliefs, and desires are distinct from those of the other children, and children who can control their own behavior to conform to social expectations, are better equipped to learn.

Play-based, development preschools embody this sentiment, fostering a strong social and emotional foundation which leads to a secure and confident self-concept. Once a child's social-emotional development is secure, intellectual development naturally gains strides. Learning to take turns, delay gratification, negotiate conflicts, problem-solve, group and sort objects, recognize numbers, letters, and words, share goals, create, use imagination, be flexible, and live with disappointment all lead to academic success throughout the child's school years and life!

**Glenview Community Church Nursery School** prides itself on being a strong, play-based development preschool. With 64 years of experience working with children, **GCCNS** is truly second to none when comparing preschools. **GCCNS's** faculty enjoys over 300 years of combined experience in education. Our teachers have seen many educational trends come and go over the years, but they hold true to the basic, traditional developmental philosophy while keeping current with advancements in preschool curricula.

Investing in your child's education begins with Preschool – it will be their foundation for success throughout their educational years and beyond and it will yield the MOST on your return!

~Marcia