



Welcome to Wonderseum

Wonderseum is a part-time, Reggio-Emilia inspired preschool program at The Woodlands Children's Museum, offering classes that meet on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or on Tuesday Thursday from 9:00am-2:00pm. Our program follows a child-led curriculum using provocations and open-ended materials to develop a life-long love of learning. Our environment intentionally uses natural materials to inspire and guide children through their preschool journey.

Arrival and Pick up Procedures

Drop off and pick up are at the museum's side entrance, to the right of the main entrance. At the moment, we do not have a car line. Parents must park and walk children to the entrance. This allows for a more grounded goodbye (and hello at the end of the day) and some time for parents to get to know each other and to chat with teachers in the mornings and afternoons. However, if you do have younger siblings or need assistance, please let us know and we can plan for assistance during this time.

All children will be checked in and signed out daily. Through your registration paperwork, please list all adults who are permitted to pick up your child. If there is someone else picking up your child who is not on the list, please communicate this beforehand to teachers. Please include the name of the person picking up your child, if they are not on the list you provided, and advise that an ID will need to be presented before the child can be released.

Drop Off is from 8:55am -9:05am

Pick up will be 1:55pm- 2:05pm

**A late fee will be applied if a parent is more than 10 minutes late picking up their child.*



Sample Schedule

8:55am-9:00am Drop off

9:00am-9:40am Explore and interact in the museum's exhibit space (this is before the museum opens to the public, so our Wonderseum children have the museum to themselves)

9:45am Morning Gathering (circle time)

10:15am- 11:45pm Provocations, art, science, and creative centers time (provocations will correspond with current lesson). Some days, during this time we will attend special programs in the museum like Shadow Puppet Theatre, Learning Zoo, Looking at Art Lady etc

11:45am- 12:15pm Motor Movement gross motor skills activities or Music with Miss Jan, both in our large museum classroom

12:30pm-12:50pm Lunch

1:00pm-1:30pm Small groups, writing and math board games

1:30pm-1:55pm Last gathering and get ready to go home

1:55pm-2:00pm Parent Pick Up

**Motor Movement is scheduled on Monday and Tuesdays.*

**Music Class with Ms. Jan is scheduled on Thursdays and Fridays.*

Communication

Daily Updates

Ms. Michelle will send out daily emails sharing what the children have been exploring in class that week, such as songs they have been singing and books they have been reading. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact Ms. Michelle through email.

mmorales@woodlandschildrensmuseum.org.

Photo Sharing

Weekly photos will be posted through a google drive folder. The link will be private to each group (MWF and TTh) and will be shared and resent each week through emails with Ms. Michelle.

During the Day

If you need to contact Ms. Michelle during the day, please call the museum at 281-465-0955. You can ask for Elle Schwabe or Jamie Glass, the Education Coordinators, to relay a message to Ms. Michelle.

What do bring Daily?

- Extra clothes

Please pack/leave extra clothes (including socks) in your child's backpack in a plastic bag or reusable waterproof bag, and please make sure to label all items.

- Snack/Lunch

We will be eating a daily snack and lunch. Please pack a separate snack and lunch for your child. Also please send a water bottle. We ask that no lemonade or juice be sent to Wonderseum.

Sick Policy

If your child is sick, please keep them home until symptoms have passed. Children must be fever-free and have not vomited for 24 hours in order to return to class. Please always communicate to us if you know your child will be absent.

Parent Visits

Parents are always welcome to visit the classroom. We encourage parents to come read books, share a special activity, or come share a special tradition from their family. If this is something you might be interested in doing, please let us know and we will welcome a time to schedule this with you.



Michelle Moralas, Wonderseum Teacher

I am a proud wife to a Retired Marine (USMC) and dog mom. I have been working with children since 1997. I have my Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and I am fully accredited in early childhood education. I have twelve years' experience in Reggio Emilia. I believe the Reggio approach program can foster children through empathy, education, expression, and exploration. I believe in investing in the early learning in a child's life.



Maria Sweeney, Wonderseum Assistant

Maria is an award-winning children's book author in Mexico, speaker, and promoter of literacy programs for children. Maria spent 12 years as an Art docent in the Education Department of the Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical gardens in San Marino, becoming the head of its volunteer program and a designer of special arts education programs for children. Maria graduated from Anahuac University in Mexico City with a degree in Law, and a master's certificates in Art, History and Literature. She is married and has three children.



Ellen Schwabe, Educational Coordinator for Wonderseum

Elle has been working in the world of early education for the past 10 years. With a background in the nonprofit sector, she has worked in educational settings around the world and locally, from creating a bilingual educational center from the ground up to working with preschools locally to achieve a higher level. She has a love and appreciation of culture, the arts, and all things creative and enjoys sharing that passion with the children in our community. She has a master's degree in child development.



Jamie Glass, Education Coordinator

I am excited to join those making a difference, as part of the education team at TWCM. I believe in the power of art and its ability to foster wonderful development in young children both physically and socially. The Woodlands Children's Museum is a wonderful place for me to share my experience and build within my community.



Jan Strelman, Literacy Specialist and Music Teacher for Wonderseum

"Miss Jan," a former children's librarian in New Hampshire, has been the Literacy Specialist at the museum since 2016. She loves sharing her passion for books and music with children through weekly floor programs—Boogie Bash, Shadow Puppet Theatre, and Storybook Theatre. Recently she introduced Rhyme Time, a program geared to children 6-24 months and their caregivers with a focus on fun hand rhymes, fingerplays, and songs that encourage early literacy development and socialization. In addition, Miss Jan is the music teacher for the museum's Wonderseum preschool.



No Way. The Hundred is There.

The child
is made of one hundred.
The child has
a hundred languages
a hundred hands
a hundred thoughts
a hundred ways of thinking
of playing, of speaking.
A hundred always a hundred
ways of listening
of marveling of loving
a hundred joys
for singing and understanding
a hundred worlds
to discover
a hundred worlds
to invent
a hundred worlds
to dream.
The child has
a hundred languages
(and a hundred hundred hundred more)
but they steal ninety-nine.
The school and the culture
separate the head from the body.



They tell the child:
to think without hands
to do without head
to listen and not to speak
to understand without joy
to love and to marvel
only at Easter and Christmas.
They tell the child:
to discover the world already there
and of the hundred
they steal ninety-nine.
They tell the child:
that work and play
reality and fantasy
science and imagination
sky and earth
reason and dream
are things
that do not belong together.

And thus they tell the child
that the hundred is not there.
The child says:
No way. The hundred is there.
Loris Malaguzzi
(translated by Lella Gandini)

What is Reggio Emilia?



*Reggio Emilia is a town found in Italy
where the philosophy was originated.
It is the only true Reggio Emilia school in
the world, the rest are considered
"inspired."*

