



WHO WE ARE:

Mini Masters Academy is an early enrichment program for 2 to 4 year old children. All children can attend either 2, 3 or 4 days, Monday through Thursday from 8:45 - 12:00. We offer an optional extended day on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 2:00pm. As a part of Easton's Academy Art Museum as well as being a member organization with the Smithsonian's Early Enrichment Center (SEEC), we base our curriculum on SEEC's philosophy and practice (<https://www.si.edu/seec/about>). Using a museum-based, emergent curriculum approach, we focus on the children's interests balanced with general curriculum themes, museum exhibitions and seasonal themes. The children learn and explore through play, circle time, learning stations, story time, art, guest visitors, museum walks and music/movement activities.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

8:45	Arrival & Free Play
9:30	Circle Time / Story
9:50	Bathroom Break & Snack
10:20	Group Activity
10:50	Movement
11:20	Learning Stations / Play
11:50	Wrap-up / Story
12:00	Dismissal

Tues. and Thurs. Extended Day:

12:15	Lunch
12:40	Bathroom Break
1:00	Group Activity
1:20	Quiet Time with Books
1:40	Free Play
2:00	Dismissal

IN THE MUSEUM:

At Mini Masters, the children regularly visit the Academy's museum galleries. During our "museum walks", we talk about and relate to objects in the museum, and we may "recreate" the art that the children have seen. As a museum-based program, we strive to help the children see the varied processes of creating art, see the diversity of people and things around us, engage in conversation and creative expression, and experience an overall sense of calm and beauty that is present in the museum. We will also visit some of our professional artists at work in their studios or the artists may visit us to do a project with the children. Once a month, the Mini Masters have the opportunity to listen to professional musicians rehearsing for the Art Academy's Music at Noon program.

MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM:

In addition to having the benefits of the museum's unique learning environment, Mini Masters readies children for school; a love of learning, self-reliance and self-motivation, and a strong foundation for language and mathematical concepts. Children who come to Mini Masters feel safe, nurtured and excited about coming to "school". Our physical space is self-contained and welcoming. The children are engaged and invested in their explorations, and their social and academic growth is enhanced by our multi-age classroom make-up of 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Verbal communication, learning to share, compassion, self-reliance and cooperation are benefits of our mixed age classroom.

SCHOOL READINESS:

The "academics" of early childhood education are embedded in the Mini Masters' day-to-day program. Our activities and projects are thoughtfully planned out so there is a meaningful connection to the children, their world, and their developmental stage. Each art project or craft is planned with learning in mind; to offer specific learning opportunities such as scissor use, fine motor development, spatial awareness, pencil grip, individual expression, or following directions.

The teachers at Mini Masters individualize the learning activities during station time and for group activities based on the child's developmental readiness and interest. A 2 year old may be stringing beads, helping to develop fine motor control, while a 4 year old may be stringing beads with the goal of learning about patterning. A 2 or 3 year old might be feeling textured letters or numbers hidden in a sensory bin, whereas a 4 year old

may be writing their letters or numbers in sand, shaving cream or on paper. Our small class size (10 children max) and 2 teachers allow for small group activities and individualized attention. The children's learning experiences and progress are documented by photographing the children at work and by a chronological portfolio of their work.

Counting objects around the room while singing, daily calendar activities at circle time, letter recognition, sorting, counting and patterning snack items, are incorporated into our daily routines. We continually engage with the children asking them to describe and explain their thinking, their artwork, their play, and their social interactions. Not only are verbal skills enriched, but the children also gain a sense of ownership and pride in their activities.

Mini Masters Academy provides an early enrichment experience in the arts, a strong sense of community among the children, opportunities for exploration and expression, and a readiness and love for learning and school in a unique learning environment.