

# 10 REASONS

RIVER VALLEY WALDORF SCHOOL IS  
MOST UNIQUE PRESCHOOL IN THE AREA

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## 1 Play Based Learning

Children naturally learn through play. The skills they develop in self-directed play opens a myriad of neural pathways, creates important muscle memory, greatly enhances social skills that become building blocks of positive conflict resolution and promotes fine and gross motor abilities.

The Harvard Education Letter corroborate this, saying that, “scripted curricula and reduced recess” are of “serious concern.” Researchers concluded: “Have kids gotten smarter? Can they learn things sooner? What effect has modern culture had on child development? The surprising answers—no, no, and none.”

Playtime allows our teachers to observe and hone each students’ abilities. No minute of the day is wasted, from preparing meals to songs in circle time, from finger knitting to gardening River Valley’s preschool and kindergartens are wonderous places to be!

## 2 River Valley’s Classroom Feels Like Home... On Purpose!

What does a River Valley classroom look like? Warm colors and gentle light create an inviting environment; the lack of bright primary colors conveys a peacefulness that adults and children can feel when they enter the room. Wooden toys, sheepskins and soft furniture fill each room to nourish the children’s sense of beauty and comfort. Toys promote imagination, wooden blocks and shapes can be built sky high and homemade Waldorf dolls can be tucked into silks to create a restful bed.

## 3 Baking, Storytelling, Poetry, Singing, Outdoor Gardening & so much more!

River Valley Waldorf School’s expansive early childhood curriculum includes a variety of activities that promote motor skills, language development and memory while reflecting the beauty and joy of our world. Our wide-ranging activities include braiding, finger knitting, sewing, modeling with beeswax, finger games, rhyming and counting games and so much more.

## 4 Nature-Based Learning

Nature provides a wealth of ever-changing learning opportunities. Physical exploration and natural inspiration live in every corner of our 7 acre campus. The benefits of time in nature, as opposed to pre-planned playground settings, are well established. Confidence, creativity and problem solving skills are experienced first hand. Nature time also provides an outlet for energy which leads to a substantial boost in attention.

## 5 Purposeful Work Everyday

One of the primary goals of River Valley's early childhood classes is to teach through imitation. There is much work to be done in a Waldorf kindergarten or preschool. Each teacher brings joy to classroom work such as washing dishes, creating snacks and sweeping. This inspires the children to join in and develop an "I can" attitude which serves as a foundation for future capability and responsibility.

## 6 Rhythmical Daily life:

A River Valley school day has a rhythm that provides comfort and joy, suiting the child's need for repetition and routine. Children may not know what day it is, but they will remember that today's snack is homemade bread since yesterday was oatmeal day. The rhythm of the day provides the children with a sense of calm and well-being,

## 7 Snack Time at River Valley Waldorf School is Nutrient Packed and Organic!

Meals are a time of togetherness at River Valley. We prepare our daily snack together, set our table together and eat and clean up together. Our snacks are organic and carefully chosen for the health and wellbeing of our students. Wild rice, millet, yogurt, oatmeal, fresh fruit and vegetable soup are just some of the hearty foods we enjoy in preschool and kindergarten. Dietary restrictions, allergies and food sensitivities are always respected.

## 8 Practical Math and Science Unfold

River Valley Waldorf's abundant vegetable garden affords plenty of scientific discovery as we plant and harvest yearly. Creating structures in the woods, stacking and moving logs and exploring the flora and fauna all around them form a basis for the mechanics of the physical world. Math and numbers are woven throughout the curriculum; they are counted out in songs, clapping games and dances.

## 9 Artwork is EVERYWHERE

Visual and creative arts are done daily. Watercolor painting, block crayon art and sanding and shaping wooden objects are just a few of the creative ways art is introduced at River Valley Waldorf School. Students' finished artwork lines the walls of our schools and can be seen throughout the campus; students even create art outdoors! Our large, wooded campus is full of carved gnomes and impressive "forts" created by our youngest students to provide hours of enjoyment.

## 10 Essential Preacademic Fundamentals

Every day our students engage in language development and acquire early math skills, cultivating learning and memory and positive classroom habits. Finger knitting helps provide fine motor skills needed for writing. Through engaging stories children learn to listen for longer periods of time. Songs and verses in circle time help develop memory and retention. At River Valley Waldorf School all roads lead to knowledge and a deeper love of learning