

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Transitional Kindergarten – What Is It?**

**Canton, MA, January 20, 2010** - With kindergarten information meetings scheduled and registration for public school programs beginning, many parents are thinking about their options, and are trying to imagine how their child might fare. There are also families with children who are not age eligible for kindergarten. These families may be considering preschool options for their child, with the thought that their child might be ready for a program more like a kindergarten than their current classroom offers.

A transitional kindergarten program serves as a bridge for both sets of children, and offers children the gift of time to develop socially, emotionally, physically or academically. The curriculum is geared to meet the developmental needs of five year old children, but is adapted to meet the unique and individual needs of each child as they grow. Children are challenged in those areas in which they need challenge, and supported in those areas of development in which they are less secure. Class size is small to assure individual attention, and the setting is warm, flexible and nurturing. There are projects and other experiences that support skill development and challenge children academically, as well as extended time for creative use of open-ended materials and play. Having this extra year to grow can make a tremendous difference to a child's confidence in their ability to learn and express themselves fully in a school setting.

Age eligibility for kindergarten may be worth thinking about well before your child is five. If you have a younger child who will miss the age requirements for kindergarten when the time comes, you may see your almost three year old as ready to start preschool, but may worry about the prospect of three preschool years before kindergarten. If this is the case, consider asking questions about the ways each prospective program you visit can individualize curriculum so that your child is both supported and challenged at each point of their development. Considering these issues early can help reduce the number of transitions in your child's early school experiences.

The kindergarten class at Learning Circle Preschool accepts older pre-k children who are not yet eligible for a public school kindergarten but who may benefit developmentally from a transitional class, as well as children who will make the transition to first grade in the following year. It is taught by Barbara Lapal, a certified, nurturing teacher who has taught in both public and private school settings at the pre-k and kindergarten level. The program is highly individualized. The schedule is flexible and can accommodate families that prefer an all day option (8:30-3 four days, with a half day on Friday), as well as those looking for half day and/or kindergarten enrichment options.

Preschool programs at Learning Circle Preschool offer two, three, or five day options for children between 2.9 – young 4 year olds, and five day options for prek children. Extended day options are available Monday-Thursday for any enrolled child.

Learning Circle Preschool is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and follows curriculum guidelines established by the Massachusetts Frameworks in all its programs.

Please call the Director, Katrina Selawsky at **781-828-4800** for more information or to arrange a tour of the facility. Parents may also contact the school by email ([info@learningcirclepreschool.org](mailto:info@learningcirclepreschool.org)). Please visit the school's website at [www.learningcirclepreschool.org](http://www.learningcirclepreschool.org).