



St. Mary's Carousel
306 South Prospect Ave
Park Ridge IL
60068
(847) 825-4568



As you travel south on Prospect Avenue through the town of Park Ridge, you're likely to hear the wonderful sound of laughter coming from St. Mary's Carousel of Learning Pre-School / Day Care. For over twenty years, St. Mary's Carousel has and will continue to provide a unique, quality program for children ages 2-6. St. Mary's Carousel of Learning has received hundreds of letters over the past twenty years thanking the teacher. "Over the last decade St. Mary's Carousel of Learning has become an important element in the fabric of Park Ridge." "Dana and I appreciate all you have done for our children for us as parents, and for the community as a whole." Many of these letters have expressed appreciation for helping each child develop self-esteem, which positively influences growth from Grade School, High School and College. The end result is a responsible successful adult.

St. Mary's Carousel of Learning was established in 1981 and the teaching philosophy has always been and will continue to be based on our concept of Family Love.

Georgia & Gene Christie along with their nine children started the school, with the idea of providing a loving, caring, enjoyable environment for both the children and parents.

It actually all started back in 1960 when Georgia and Gene moved their family to the town of Park Ridge for their excellent school system. Education was extremely important to them as parents, as well as, keeping the family continuously involved with their faith at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. From Field School to Emerson and then Maine South all of their children followed these stepping stones of education to continue on to College and receive each of their degrees in their field of choice. The choice of their five daughters being education was not surprising after helping their mother teach Sunday school for many years at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. It was during that time when the Pre-School director of the day school at St. Mary's was planning to retire that their dream of starting their own school became a reality. After months of remodeling, learning all of the rules and regulations, and receiving their license the school was officially opened in September of 1981.

The Curriculum at St. Mary's carousel of Learning encourages play as the child's most appropriate tool for learning. The Christies' (Jan Christie Pagone, Judy Christie Fritz, Nancy Christie Gobbo) along with their staff understand the importance of play to children's development by providing opportunities for both structured and spontaneous activities in the program. They Strongly believe success in social interaction and an intellectually stimulating environment, establishes the necessary developmental format for each child to cope with a structured educational environment upon entering the elementary educational mainstream systems.

Coming from a family of nine the Christies' recognize the importance of each child developing their own unique personality. Each child may grow intellectually at their own pace by St. Mary's Carousel of Learning providing the appropriate Self-Esteem! When you stop by the school, anyone is welcome anytime, you can witness seasonal programs celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring with each student participating in each of their classes, actively with songs, dancing, and costume performances. Every year one child may freeze on stage at a performance, but the next year that child is the loudest, most active, and the hit of the show.

The Christie Teachers are proud of their years of success in encouraging thousands of pre-schoolers to develop a very positive sense of Self-Esteem and the love of learning!

Stop by and visit at 306 S. Prospect, located at the corner of Prospect and Crescent in Park Ridge. (847) 825-4568