Hamilton Heights Child Development Center Emphasizes Outdoor Learning in Play-Based Preschool Programs

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OMAHA, NE - October 22, 2026 -
Hamilton Heights Child Development Center incorporates outdoor experiences as a vital component of early childhood education. The 86th & Dodge location illustrates how outdoor spaces can be effectively integrated into play-based preschool programs to support child development. Featuring over 2 acres of landscaped playgrounds and gardens, the site offers a dedicated area for children to engage in outdoor activities as part of their daily routine.

Preschool programs at Hamilton Heights Child Development Center for children ages three to four years include outdoor play as an integral part of the schedule. Children utilize the outdoor learning spaces to explore, move, and interact in ways that complement indoor activities. The center's approach centers on play-based learning, where child-led exploration encourages curiosity and discovery in natural settings. Pre-K programs for four and five year olds similarly incorporate daily outdoor exploration, allowing children to build upon skills developed in themed learning centers through experiences in the playgrounds and gardens.

Dodi, Director of the 86th & Dodge location, said, "We see children at the 86th & Dodge location

thrive in our outdoor spaces, where they lead their own play and engage with the environment around them in meaningful ways."

The outdoor areas provide opportunities for sensory experiences, such as interacting with natural elements in the gardens and navigating the varied surfaces of the playground. Movement-based activities in these spaces support physical development while fostering coordination and confidence. In an outdoor learning preschool setting, children often engage in imaginative play, using the open areas to create scenarios that promote creativity and problem-solving. These activities align with the center's "Play, Explore, Grow" philosophy, which views learning as a holistic process supported by nurturing environments.

Christina, Assistant Director of the 86th & Dodge location, noted, "Outdoor play at our location facilitates social interaction and emotional growth as children collaborate and communicate during group activities in the playgrounds and gardens."

Hamilton Heights Child Development Center designs its programs to address whole-child development. At the 86th & Dodge location, the expansive outdoor spaces serve as an extension of the classroom learning centers, where children can apply concepts from blocks, dramatic play, and discovery areas in a larger, natural context. The low teacher-to-child ratios enable educators to observe and support individual children during outdoor time, responding to their interests and needs. This practice supports the center's focus on child-led learning and age-appropriate exploration.

Adrianne Agulla, Owner and Executive Director at Hamilton Heights Child Development Center, stated, "Outdoor environments complement our play-based curriculum by offering children additional avenues for sensory engagement, movement, and social experiences that contribute to their overall growth."

Daily routines at the 86th & Dodge location typically include transitions between indoor and outdoor activities, providing balance and variety for the children. During outdoor time, preschoolers and Pre-K students might explore the landscaped gardens, participate in active play on the playground structures, or engage in free play that encourages imaginative and cooperative interactions. These experiences help children develop an appreciation for nature while building skills in communication, empathy, and self-regulation through peer play. The safe and supportive design of the outdoor spaces allows children to take on challenges at their own pace, promoting resilience and a sense of accomplishment.

The integration of outdoor learning helps create a comprehensive educational experience that nurtures children's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. By incorporating outdoor play and exploration into preschool programs, Hamilton Heights Child Development Center provides children with diverse learning opportunities that respond to their natural curiosity. The 86th & Dodge location exemplifies how thoughtfully designed outdoor areas can enhance play-based education without replacing

indoor structured activities. Educators maintain consistent focus on how these spaces encourage child-led discovery, sensory engagement, and movement in alignment with established early childhood principles.

Preschool and Pre-K children at the center benefit from the flexibility of outdoor environments that adapt to varying interests and weather conditions. The landscaped playgrounds and gardens allow for open-ended activities that support imaginative play, where children might transform elements of the space into settings for storytelling or collaborative building. Such practices reinforce the center's commitment to exploration-based preschool education, where curiosity drives the learning process in supportive surroundings.

Outdoor experiences also promote physical engagement through running, climbing, and balancing activities that are naturally suited to the expansive areas available at the 86th & Dodge location. These movement opportunities complement the more contained indoor sessions, contributing to a balanced daily schedule that addresses multiple areas of child development. Social dynamics unfold organically in group outdoor settings, where children practice sharing, turn-taking, and cooperative problem-solving amid the freedom of the playgrounds and gardens.

The 86th & Dodge location's outdoor learning spaces thus serve as a real-world example of how Hamilton Heights Child Development Center applies its philosophy of nurturing environments that prioritize safety, support, and encouragement for exploration. This integration of outdoor elements into daily preschool routines reflects ongoing attention to age-appropriate opportunities that foster whole-child development through play, sensory input, and child-directed activities.

Hamilton Heights Child Development Center provides early childhood education and care for children from infancy through school age at multiple locations. The center is committed to nurturing environments that support children through child-led exploration and discovery in alignment with its "Play, Explore, Grow" philosophy.

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For more information about Hamilton Heights Child Development Center, contact the company here:Hamilton Heights - Central West OmahaDodi(402) 821-0442enrollment@hamiltonheightscdc.com533 N 86th St, Omaha, NE 68114, United States

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Looking for high-quality childcare in Central Omaha? Hamilton Heights Child Development Center at 86th & Dodge offers a safe, loving, and enriching environment where children can grow, learn, and thrive through every stage of development.

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