

From infants to pre-K, where they start matters



Corey Renaud Moore

For nearly 24 years, **The Goddard School of O'Fallon-Dardenne Prairie** has been helping children develop a love of learning, curiosity and wonder.

Owner Corey Renaud Moore and her staff of 30 educators are adept at creating unique, hands-on learning experiences, such as pre-K students driving a miniature mail truck to deliver student letters, or teaching American Sign Language (ASL) alongside Spanish, or introducing chess to 3-year-olds.

"Chess teaches sportsmanship, patterning and logic," Corey explained. "We start by telling stories about a faraway kingdom where a knight, king and queen live. Through those stories the children learn how to set up the chessboard. Later, we often hear them retelling the story as they play the game."

Sign language instruction, which begins in the infant room as a first language, continues as the child grows, both as a way to work on fine motor skills and as a second language. Expanding the child's horizon's even further, ASL is combined with Spanish as the child learns colors, numbers and everyday vocabulary.

Every subject is presented in relatable and exciting ways. Each child is encouraged to explore their interests, driven by their natural curiosity and guided by their teachers.

"My faculty are truly amazing. Of my 30 faculty members, 22 have been here between four and 24 years. We also have four alumni working with us and that makes me very proud," Corey said. She likened the school to a village where families can gather and find support.

"Each month we have events where families from our school and the community can come and meet other," Corey said. "We want to be a home away from home for our students. We want their parents to have complete trust in us."



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