The Bernice M. Wright Child Development Laboratory School is an ideal place for children to learn and grow. Serving a diverse group of children and their families, the school is operated by Syracuse University’s Falk College, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

The Program
Following Syracuse University’s academic calendar, Bernice M. Wright offers classes during the academic year (September to May). A summer session (May to June) is also available for children already enrolled in the school. Our newly renovated facility houses four classrooms, large motor areas, therapy spaces, kitchen and specialized curriculum areas such as an art studio, woodworking room and library.

Classes are offered from 9 a.m. to noon for toddlers and preschoolers. An extended-day program (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) is offered for preschoolers only. Children may enroll in the five-day program (Monday through Friday), the three-day program (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday), or the two-day program (Tuesday and Thursday). Toddlers must be 2 by December 1, and preschoolers 3 by December 1.

Admissions Contact Information
Applications for admission are accepted beginning in February. For more information, to request an application, or to make an appointment to visit the school, please call 315-443-2471. The application is also available online at falk.syr.edu/ChildFamilyStudies/BMW.aspx.
Children and Families

Children of diverse language backgrounds and abilities, ages 2 through 5, are enrolled at the school, where they are encouraged to be active, curious, and enthusiastic learners. They develop problem-solving and social skills, individual creative expression, self-confidence, and positive self-awareness. They are part of a classroom community where each member is valued.

Research shows that parent participation in early childhood experiences promotes optimal social and cognitive development, furthering later academic success. Therefore, parent participation is an important component of the program. Parents are asked to visit their child’s class at least twice a semester to share a healthy snack and assist in classroom activities. An annual open house, class parties, and a year-end culminating event help facilitate family-teacher relations and interactions.

Bernice M. Wright embraces inclusion, celebrating cultural and developmental diversity and recognizing the similarities and differences that make the world an exciting place. Through collaboration with community-based service providers, the school enrolls children with varying developmental abilities, adding greatly to the overall classroom experience.

Teaching and Research

Located on Syracuse University’s South Campus, Bernice M. Wright is a university lab school. As such, it serves as a teacher training facility and supports research in early childhood education.

Supervising teachers have extensive training in child development and early childhood education. Assistant teachers are graduate students from SU’s Department of Child and Family Studies. Undergraduate students also participate in the classroom through a field placement (or internship) experience. The school’s director, in collaboration with Child and Family Studies faculty, oversees the teachers and serves as an advisor.

Research at the school continues to inform the body of knowledge regarding how young children develop and learn and how families and teachers can promote these skills and dispositions. Families of children enrolled in the school are asked to participate in ongoing research through family questionnaires, interviews, and child observations.