

Why do you do assessments?

La Petite Academy's Journey Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten programs focus on preparing your child for success in elementary school. One important aspect of our program is the assessment process. The reason we assess your child is to make sure the learning opportunities we provide at La Petite Academy are responsive to your child's level of development, interests and learning pace. The more we understand your child, the more we can support your child's growth and development.

Aren't these children too young for assessment?

The reason for assessing young children is because we want to make sure the learning opportunities we provide are responsive to each child's level of development, interests and pace of learning. The more we understand your child, the better we can be at helping her develop. That is our goal. Tools like Galileo (an outside assessment tool that we use in addition to our own assessments) provide extremely valuable information for planning learning opportunities that help us reach this goal. It also reinforces that what we teach is what your child needs. It's important to keep in mind that these are observation-based assessments.

What type of assessment tool do you use?

The independent third party tool La Petite Academy uses is called Galileo. This is an externally developed tool that assesses children's progress and is used in many public and private schools across the country. Galileo helps to ensure that the learning progress at La Petite Academy continues to exceed expectations. It also helps us to improve our programs and individualize the learning environment to make certain that your child is prepared for a lifetime of learning and formal schooling. Galileo scales use an interval level of measurement; which is a state-of-the-art mechanism that allows for a consistent measure of growth, dependent on all children and classrooms.

(The way the Galileo scales work is comparable to the way a child's growth is measured in height and weight. Any child who grows 5 inches has gained the same amount of height regardless of whether the child is 4 or 5 feet tall. Similarly, children who gain 20 points in a developmental level are showing the identical amount of growth whether they began the year with only a few skills or many skills. The tool is designed such that a 20-point gain on the Language & Literacy scale means the same as a 20- point gain on the Early Math scale. Thus, each developmental gain has a precise meaning. A team of researchers, in conjunction with the developers of the Galileo scales, set a level of 50 points gained throughout the course of a school year. Gains of this magnitude indicate a substantial level of growth. A 50-point gain represents one standard deviation on the Galileo scales - a level of growth anticipated after one year of program intervention.)

What is Galileo?

Galileo is an educational planning tool that helps us observe your child's development and along with our internal assessments, allows us to individualize the learning environment. Because Galileo has established psychometric properties and has been used with several hundred thousand children, we are able to quantify our educational effectiveness across all La Petite Academies and use this information to improve our programs.

Why are you using Galileo?

We are using Galileo because we want our staff to have the very best educational tools in their hands and so that they can provide the very best learning environment for your child. Galileo supplements our internal assessment tools by providing an opportunity to quantify the educational impact of our programs. The results will help us continue to improve our curriculum.

Is my child being tested with Galileo?

No, we are using Galileo to gather information about your child in a natural way through work samples and direct observation as your child explores, plays and learns.

What does the data tell us?

The findings reveal that children who attend La Petite Academy over the course of an academic year acquire a broad array of school-readiness skills and make educational progress beyond that typically expected of children in their age group. These results support the quality of our Journey curriculum and solidify La Petite Academy's continued commitment to early education.

