



# Press Release

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Stephanie Lenox**  
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## **Introducing The Preschool at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village**

**Salem, OR**—Beginning September 2008, “The Preschool at A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village” opens its doors with weekday morning classes for children ages 3-5 at the nonprofit children’s museum in downtown Salem.

“The museum is an ideal learning center,” explained Sylvia Halsey, Education Director for A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village. Already a leading organization that promotes hands-on learning in the sciences, arts and humanities, the museum is uniquely positioned with qualified staff and kid-tested curriculum to expand into an early childhood education program, she said.

Registration is now open and is limited to 15 students per class, in either Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday sessions. What makes the preschool different from others, explained Halsey, is its focus on the “big ideas of science, mathematics, literacy and the arts.” Building off the museum’s philosophy that playing is essential to learning, classes will pose questions, encourage exploration, and test ideas through play both in the classroom and in exploration of the museum’s exhibits and outdoor areas.

While classes focus on the child’s needs, the program is designed to incorporate the parent as a learning partner, said Halsey. Registration in the preschool includes reduced fees for members or a museum membership for nonmembers with year-round access to the museum and over 300 other science centers and children’s museums worldwide. In addition to research-based

### **A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village**

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

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classroom content presented by expert teachers, the program engages children through an innovative child-centered pedagogy to better prepare them for success in school.

For more information, contact A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village or visit the website at [www.acgilbert.org](http://www.acgilbert.org).

**About the Program:** The Preschool at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village opens September 2008 for children ages 3-5. Registration begins July 15. Info: 503-371-3631 or [www.acgilbert.org](http://www.acgilbert.org).

**Info Sessions:** Forty-five minute presentation will provide general information, an explanation of the "Big Ideas of Science", description of a typical day, question and answer period and registration opportunity.

Dates and Times: July 22, 5:30 pm and August 9, 10 am

Location: Wilson-Durbin House at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village (enter from 440 Water St, in the building next to the Little Gem Grocery Store)

**Registration fees:** Annual non-refundable registration is \$150 for museum members and \$215 for non-membership (fee includes museum membership for the entire family). Monthly tuition is \$265/month for MWF sessions and \$189/month for TTH sessions.

*A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village is a private nonprofit children's museum located in downtown Salem's Riverfront Park. Founded in 1989, A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village provides innovative and stimulating educational experiences that spark children's natural curiosity. The Village's mission is to provoke curiosity, inspire awe, awaken interest, foster enjoyment, encourage learning, and enable understanding in all youth.*

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