HERE IS POWER in a child’s natural sense of wonder, and teachers in Hathaway Brown School’s early childhood and primary school know how to help young learners tap into it.

It’s not unusual to see kindergarteners learning math or music or science in a woodland environment they created, or fourth graders envisioning life in a model fishing village. Some are building boats while others are researching hurricanes or finding ways to rescue a whale run aground.

“We’re teaching the girls how to think, how to be comfortable asking questions, how to be initiators and get things done,” says Kristin Kuhn, director of early childhood and primary school admission.

Using a unique curriculum called Storyline, teachers give context to the subjects their classrooms are exploring. Students grow in competence, cognition and community — the three cornerstones of the school’s discovery-based learning model.

Learning at Hathaway Brown is self-guided and memorable. It teaches young girls to take appropriate risks and to work together effectively with a group. The result is not just fun. It gives students the tools they will need to tackle future challenges in life.

“We want our girls to find out what their passions are early on, and learn to begin exploring them,” Kuhn says.