



CURRICULUM SPECIFICS

LEARNING AREAS: General and/or theme based activities (games, puzzles, toys, tools, materials, etc.) to promote learning in the following areas are offered each day. Children freely plan which learning areas to visit each day based on individual interest and developmental skill level. Teachers plan activities/materials to be offered in each area on a weekly basis then daily follow the child's lead to support appropriate use of activities/materials, offer encouragement and answer/ask questions to broaden learning experiences as well as help problem solve and promote sharing of space/materials. Skills and concepts listed under each learning area represent a partial idea of learning opportunities. All learning areas and the preschool experience in general promotes: self awareness and independence; respect, tolerance and patience; decision making and time management; imagination & creativity; language and communication; listening and comprehension; sharing, cooperation and problem solving....the list is endless and the benefits toward an eagerness for school and life long learning are equally infinite. In short, at preschool we "learn to play and play to learn"!

A-B-C's/ Writing & Books

letter/sound recognition
building vocabulary
develop fine motor skills
learn to hold writing utensils
refine eye-hand coordination
understand print & symbols
promote top to bottom progression
promote left to right progression
develop pre-reading skills
develop storytelling skills

Blocks & Building

promote weight/balance concepts
promote length/height/area concepts
discover color, shape, size & texture
understand cause & effect
understand alike & different
refine eye-hand coordination
develop fine motor skills
promote visual & organizational skills
develop sorting/matching/counting skills
build problem solving skills
promote individual expression/creativity
promote sharing of space/materials
understand benefits of cooperation
build social skills & self control

Numbers & Manipulatives

color & shape recognition
counting & number recognition
develop sorting & matching skills
understand concept of more vs less
understand classifying/patterning
understand sequencing
understand graphing
refine sense of touch/fine motor skills
promote eye-hand coordination
promote visual discrimination
build problem solving skills

Dramatic Play

promote tolerance/diversity
explore different environments
experience different celebrations/customs
practice self-help skills
develop concept of family/professional roles
practice simple chores/daily routines
discover ways people help each other
discover socially acceptable behavior
promote sharing of space/materials
understand benefits of cooperation
build social skills & self control
promote individual expression/creativity
build problem solving skills
promote verbal & non-verbal communication

Art

learn use of paper, scissors & glue
develop fine motor skills
refine eye-hand coordination
promote following 3-4 step directions
learn to hold writing/coloring utensils
promote storytelling skills
discover line, color, shape, size & texture
promote individual expression
build problem solving skills
experience a variety of simple media/materials

Sensory & Science

refine sense of touch/fine motor skills
refine eye-hand coordination
promote individual expression/creativity
practice measuring & pouring
refine observational/comparison skills
promote discovery, curiosity & imagination
understand cause & effect
promote relaxation & self control
build vocabulary
experience a variety of textures & substances
understand safety concepts
promote sharing of space/materials
understand benefits of cooperation
build social skills & self control

CONSTRUCTIVE WORK TIME: During designated class periods throughout the year the Pre-K Learners will be led in a constructive work time that promotes building knowledge, independent and creative thinking, problem-solving, verbal communication as well as personal and shared reflection through independent and collaborative hands-on exploration and work with a variety of manipulative materials and clean recyclables. The Growing Learners and Little Learners will experience Discovery activities with similar materials as a precursor to Constructive Work Time at the Pre-K level.

TEACHING BAGS & SHARING EXPERIENCES: To promote eagerness and confidence toward learning and sharing knowledge with others, "teaching bags" and/or "share buddies/bears" will be distributed to students on a rotating schedule throughout the school year. The Pre-K students will utilize a Letter Bag and a Secret Suitcase, the Growing Learners will have a Theme Bag, a Rhyming Bag and a Book Buddy, and the Little Learners will use a Share Bear.

Continued....

S.M.I.L.E. (Sensory Motor Integrated with Learning Experiences): These activities use music, rhythm and movement to enhance arm, leg and whole body development as well as promote following directions, spatial awareness and listening skills. Through S.M.I.L.E. large motor games and activities, we “learn to move and move to learn”! Throughout the year we will experience:

Sign Language Songs

promote looking at person speaking
help lengthen attention span
promote listening & following directions
exercise fingers & build hand strength
strengthen sequencing and memory
teach alternative form of communication

Activities

strengthen fingers/fine motor skills & refine sense of touch
promote large motor development & sense of balance
develop rhythmic awareness & timing
strengthen body part awareness & promote body control
improve directionality & left/right concept
promote crossing the midline of the body
develop unilateral, bilateral and cross lateral skills
understand shapes & promote spatial awareness
promote listening & following directions

Character & Kindness (PK), AL'S PALS (GL) & What Would You Do? (LL): These lessons and activities with group conversations and games, stories, pictures, role playing, and song/dance promote pro-social skills, character development, self-regulation and emotional wellness. The different lessons throughout the year help develop learning in the following areas:

Social Competence

teach appropriate verbal & non-verbal communication
teach appropriate expression of feelings
promote tolerance & respect
promote positive attitude toward caring, sharing & cooperation
refine ability to see different sides/ideas

Autonomy

develop self control & self discipline
develop clear sense of separate identity
promote independence
promote self awareness & confidence

Problem Solving

promote flexible thinking
promote different solutions

GRAPHIC DRAWING (PK): This activity uses story scenarios and guided graphic drawing to help promote the school readiness and self-regulation skills of private speech to regulate thinking/thought processes, holding two strategies in mind at the same time, developing self discipline and following directions.

HANDWRITING W/O TEARS (PK & GL on an introductory level): These developmentally appropriate lessons promote writing readiness, early drawing/printing skills and capital letter recognition. The multi-sensory lessons teach to all learning styles – visual, auditory, tactile and kinesthetic.

Unique/Appealing Materials

(songs/movement, wood pieces, chalk boards)
promote body & spatial awareness
develop fine motor skills
teach proper writing utensil hold
eliminate problems w/letter formation & promote legibility
curb tendency of letter reversals

Activities

teach orientation & directionality
introduce pre-writing vocabulary
provide opportunity for pre-writing practice
promote capital letter recognition
provide opportunity to practice writing strokes

WORD TIME (GL): This additional program from HANDWRITING W/O TEARS uses a parrot puppet named Squawker to introduce children to the magic of words and build strong vocabulary and oral language skills. With Squawker, children learn new words as well as hear and speak sentences that tell, describe, ask and answer.

AMAZING ACTION ALPHABET & NUMBER NEIGHBORHOOD (PK & GL): “Seeing + Hearing + Doing” research proven technique for learning letter names/sounds and number names.

BUDDY READING (PK): With a partner PK students will explore books and take turns being the reader and listener in weekly buddy reading sessions. Buddy Reading promotes school readiness and self-regulation skills of: concepts of print, turn taking, story telling and recall, self control, active listening and staying on task.

EVERYDAY MATH (PK): From the University of Chicago School of Mathematics Project. Provides age and developmental appropriate mathematic activities and experiences for the PK age child to introduce concepts of number and numeration, operations and computation, data and chance, measurement and reference frames, geometry and pattern functions and algebra.

SEEDS (PK), CLIFFORD'S BIG WORLD READERS (GL), EXPLORING OUR WORLD (LL): These short, age appropriate lessons discussed in class and distributed to each child a few times each month, help the children further experience and understand: the weekend liturgy Gospel readings (PK) and preschool concepts/themes (GL/LL). Be sure to take the opportunity to read and complete the enrichment activities with your children at home to gain the most from these materials.