

# PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM and LESSONS

## Social and Emotional Development

Vital at this age, we encourage children to play and interact with their peers. In small and large group activities they learn to:

- learn how to use words to problem-solve effectively
- learn to follow simple directions, routine and rules
- how to take turns and share with others
- develop friendships

## Dramatic Play Center

Imaginative play to build language, literacy, math and social skills along with the fine and gross motor skills

## Fine and Gross Motor Development

Independence develops as children engage their motor skills. To encourage writing skills, the children practice:

- writing using proper pencil grip
- coloring
- completing puzzles
- using scissors, glue

Gross motor skills are heightened while playing on our age-appropriate playground where children can run, climb, jump and balance. Children love to dance and have fun daily with integrated musical activities.

## Catholic Faith and Character Education

The "I Am Special" Preschool Religion Program utilizes our virtue-based curriculum encourages children to develop into caring adults. Our classroom prayer table displays items relative to lessons being taught including a Bible, cross, virtue rocks and rosary. Reading from a children's Bible, students learn the Easter story and they attend Mass on Holy Days and special occasions. They learn the Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Grace, Lord's Prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance. The children always enjoy when our priests visit the classroom!

## Specialty

- Library, Music, P.E., Art

## Science, Sensory and Discovery

Children are natural explorers! Methods given to investigate and examine include:

- items that float and sink
- grow and harvest their own plants
- learn to classify plants, animals and people
- observe butterflies emerge from chrysalises
- search for treasures buried in various materials
- experience the incubating and hatching of eggs
- enjoy a visit from baby pigs and a veterinarian
- learn about the weather and seasons
- special guests include:  
first responders, doctor, dentist, and eye doctor

## Math Concepts and Manipulatives

- children count and identify numerals
- one-to-one correspondence
- measuring items to compare
- days of week, months of year, seasons
- recognize, match, sort: objects, shapes, colors
- sequence of events
- patterning

## Literacy, Language and Phonological Awareness Skills

At this age, children continually practice and grow their vocabularies. Opportunities for them to sing and participate in finger puppet plays enhance their phonetic awareness. Other opportunities include as appropriate:

- recognizing their name
- alphabet letterforms and sounds
- introduction to rhyming
- story time to aid in listening comprehension and left to right progression
- introduction to Spanish through numbers and colors

