



PRE-KINDERGARTEN at St. Thomas Preschool

Teaching Pre-Kindergarten presents challenges that are unique in many ways. As children enter school, they come with varying degrees of readiness, and their parents come with varied expectations of what will be accomplished in a year. That is why we have designed a program that is developmentally appropriate for the children in our classrooms.



Why We're Unique

A Balanced Approach to Learning and Play

St. Thomas Preschool is a premier early childhood education program that incorporates the teachings of the Catholic Church into our daily lesson plan and classroom routines. We believe that children are a gift from God and that early education should be relevant, meaningful, and fun!

Nurturing the Whole Child

St. Thomas Preschool takes a whole-child approach to early childhood education. Teachers, administrators, and support staff work together to meet the intellectual, social, behavioral, and emotional needs of each and every child we serve. We want children to be confident, express themselves, have good critical thinking skills, make good choices, experience a variety of art, music, religion, and math, develop friendships, and practice their love for God.

The Pre-Kindergarten Program

Pre-Kinder classes are available for children 4 to 5 years of age. St. Thomas Preschool is a great place for your child to prepare for Kindergarten without giving up that essential play time. The Pre-Kinder program is designed to reinforce all those amazing social, emotional, and cognitive skills they've acquired over the last couple years. In addition, centers and circle time will incorporate critical thinking so that basic math, science, and language arts become a part of their everyday life prior to Kindergarten.

Our Pre-K Curriculum

Religion

Our religious belief is for every child to develop a unique relationship with God. Children need to experience God's love everyday through celebrations, prayer, biblical stories, music, and a sense of community. We will encourage children to live as Christians in every aspect of their life.



Social Emotional/Motor Skills

- Feel emotionally secure and physically safe
- Develop the capacity to experience, express, and gain self-control over their emotions and social interactions
- Participate in planned movement experiences with vigorous outdoor and indoor activities

Fine Arts

- Use a variety of materials, media, and tools to create original works of art
- Participate and discuss movement and music activities
- Listen to different types of music (classical, jazz, reggae, and Native American chants)
- Engage in dramatic play activities

Language Arts

- Become familiar with the names and sounds of letters, A through Z
- Know that stories are made of words and talk about the meaning of a story
- Listen and say rhyming words

Handwriting

- Learn pre-strokes and shapes in a developmental sequence
- Begin to establish writing uppercase and lowercase alphabet letters, A through Z
- Write first name and begins to write last name
- Organize writing from left to right

Mathematics

- Count to 10 or beyond and begin to recognize numbers 0 to 10
- Recognize 2- and 3-dimensional shapes
- Compare and sort objects
- Identify, copy, and continue patterns

Science

- Name the 5 senses
- Study the life cycle of animals and plants
- Understand weather concepts

Social Studies

- Learn the similarities and differences in families
- Exhibit qualities of responsible citizenship
- Celebrate holidays and special days in the communities and the world around us

Dual-Language Instruction

- Explore language and culture through fun whole language instruction
- Participate in a weekly enrichment lesson in Spanish



A Day in the Life of a Pre-K Child

7:30 am	Early Care
8:50am	Greeting Ritual
9:00am	Morning Circle
9:15am	Centers (Structured: open-ended art, math, literacy, fine motor)
9:50am	Religion
10:10am	Snack
10:20am	Outside Playground
12:00pm	Lunch
12:45pm	Centers (Free Choice: books, dramatic play, writing center, science, sensory)
1:45pm	End of the Day Circle
2:00pm	Dismissal/After Care

Early childhood education is more than a beginning.

At St. Thomas Preschool, it's a foundation!



St. Thomas Preschool
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