



Preschool Curriculum

Opening Group: We start each day as a whole group. We meet on the group area carpet. First, we sing a welcome song. Then, we do the "Days of the Week", the calendar and the weather. Next, we do "Question of the Day", Our "Daily Message", and a theme activity.

Small Groups: Students work in a small group with a teacher. During this time, we work on individual skill development in literacy, math, and social emotional skills. Some of the skills we work on throughout the year are letter naming, letter sound connection, rhyming, alliteration, sequencing, print concept, numeral identification, counting to 20+, making sets 1-10, patterning, subitizing, taking turns, and problem solving.

Learning Zones: Our classroom is divided into 6 learning areas called zones. The six zones are Math, Dramatic Play, Blocks, Art, Sensory/Science, and Literacy. Each day the students select a zone they would like to work in. The teaching staff plans and changes zone materials and activities weekly. These materials are based on our current theme, and student interest, with the goal of developing their learning skills in all areas.

Math Zone: This zone provides students with the opportunity to learn basic math concepts. Students use a variety of manipulatives to count, sort, create patterns, identify numerals, make sets, work with shapes, develop fine motor skills, put together puzzles, and work cooperatively with others.

Dramatic Play Zone: At the beginning of the year this zone is called the house center. The materials in this zone change monthly based on our theme. This zone encourages students to role play, act out familiar stories or actions, take turns, share and trade items, use their imagination, and develop literacy and math skills.

Block/Construction Zone: Students use this zone to build and create. The teachers provide them with wooden blocks, hollow blocks, foam blocks, and

cardboard blocks. The students use people, animals, the dollhouse, cars, tracks, and Legos. Here the students build fine motor skills, and develop teamwork, creativity, and social skills.

Art Zone: The students have access to a variety of materials. They use creativity to develop their own ideas. Students work with scissors, glue, crayons, markers, paper, pipe cleaners, dot dabbers, sequins, cotton balls, beads, and other available materials. This helps students develop their fine motor and early writing skills.

Literacy Zone: This zone includes writing, reading books, story retelling, using puppets, and technology. Students are encouraged to use writing materials to form letters, create their own books, and write vocabulary words. They use puppets and props to retell familiar stories. Students develop an appreciation for books and learn basic literacy concepts.

Sensory/Science: This zone promotes weight and balance concepts. Using their five senses the students explore measuring and pouring, refining observation skills, increasing hand-eye coordination, while promoting discovery, curiosity, and imagination.

Second Step: This is a social emotion curriculum. It uses stories, pictures, puppets, and role playing to enhance social concepts. These skills include understanding feelings, knowing how to be part of a group, practicing fair ways to play. Students also learn calming down techniques and problem-solving skills.

Freeze Game: The Freeze game activity teaches students self-regulation skills. The students dance and move to the music, when it stops, they freeze.

Graphic Practice: This activity uses story scenarios and guided drawing to help promote school readiness and self-regulation skills. Teachers model the use of self-talk, self-discipline, and following directions.

Buddy Reading: Students learn to appreciate books and the basic concepts of print. First, they chose a library book and are assigned a partner. They take turns listening to each other "read". The teachers model how to use the pictures to read and tell about the characters in their stories. The students practice taking turns, listening to each other, and using their emerging literacy skills.

Large Motor/Recess: Each day we provide the students with 30 minutes of large motor activities. This might be outside, in the gymnasium or in the classroom. This time is used to improve large motor skills and to practice using our social emotional skills.

Closing Group: We end each day together as a group. This adds to the feeling of belonging in our classroom (family/community). We discuss the events of the day and sing a closing song.

Assessment: The teaching staff uses Teaching Strategies Gold to monitor and assess each student's growth throughout the school year. We are part of the state funded free 4-year-old preschool program and this is the assessment system the state uses. This system looks at all areas on development including cognitive, language, physical, literacy, math, and social emotional skills. The teaching staff take anecdotal notes, photos, and observations to document student progress. Each students' growth is assessed and reported three times a year: fall, winter and spring.