



Nativity Early Learning Center Preschool Program Plan

The Nativity Early Learning Center’s preschool programs are designed to maximize the educational and social benefits for your child’s future success.

Our staff is committed to providing children with a curriculum that continues to grow as they do! Your child will experience the joys of learning in their preschool classroom as they explore the following academic areas:

There are six areas of development that our youngest children focus on throughout their days in the preschool programs at the NELC. These areas follow the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of progress. The NELC has also added an additional area on Religious Education.

Social and Emotional Development	Emotional Development, Self-Concept and Social Competence and Relationships
Language and Literacy Development	Listening, Speaking, Emergent Reading and Emergent Writing
Cognitive Development	<p>Mathematical and Logical Thinking: Number Concepts and Operations, Patterns and Relationships, Spatial Relationships/Geometry, Measurement and Mathematical Reasoning</p> <p>Scientific Thinking and Problem Solving: Observing, Questioning and Investigating</p> <p>Social Systems Understanding: Human Relationships and Understanding the World</p>
Physical and Motor Development	Gross Motor Development, Fine Motor Development and Physical Health and Well-Being
Approaches to Learning	Curiosity, Risk-Taking, Imagination and Invention, Persistence and Reflection and Interpretation
Creativity and the Arts	Creating, Responding and Evaluating
Religious Education	The children will develop an awareness of God, the bible, learning prayers, empathy, respect and values through developmentally appropriate activities including being kind and loving to each other.

Areas of the Classroom

The following is a sample list of some of the terms you may hear your preschooler child or child's teacher use to explain the areas of the classroom and the activities that occurred.

Free Choice Time	During free choice time or “free play” children are allowed to move freely throughout the entire classroom. Socialization skills, problem solving skills, cooperative play and many other skills emerge from free choice time. Below is a list of areas in your child’s classroom.
Dramatic Play Area	Encourages problem solving skills, role-playing, socialization skills, language skills and cooperative play interactions.
Book Area	Provides a quiet area to learn early letter and word recognition.
Manipulative Area	Encourages math skills, cooperative skills, fine motor skills and turn taking.
Science Area	Encourages children to appreciate nature and the environment, to experiment, discover and to develop cause and affect skills.
Sensory Table	Encourages hands on expression.
Art Area	Provides a variety of medias and opportunities for creative expression.
Computer	Further enriches math skills as well as fine motor skills. *Please note, not all classrooms have a computer.
Music Area	Encourages music appreciation. The children are also exposed to music of different cultures.
Block Area	The children are able to use math skills, problem solving skills, large/fine motor skills and spatial relationships.