

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

Our goal in the three and four year old preschool classes is to provide a warm and stimulating environment where children will feel safe and free to explore the world around them. We work to help children gain confidence in themselves as they become learners, adapt to group experiences, and learn to respect the feelings of others.

The preschool curriculum introduces concepts and skills that provide a developmentally appropriate foundation for future learning. Materials in the classroom are engaging and enriching, encouraging imagination and socialization. The children will explore various themes throughout the school year which will integrate the following:

Language Arts

using language to express ideas and answer questions

vocabulary enrichment

creative expression and dramatic play

visual development - shapes, colors, visual discrimination and memory, name recognition, letter recognition

auditory development - learning to follow verbal directions, auditory discrimination and memory, listening comprehension, phonics

developing a positive attitude toward reading and love of literature

Math

matching, sequencing, sorting, patterns, spatial relationships, comparing, counting, graphing, measurement, number recognition, calendar skills

Science

exploring, experimenting, discovering, and developing an awareness of the changing world

Social Studies

learning about our classroom community --- routines, rhythms, rules --- in order to function as a group
recognizing likenesses and differences among peer group
learning respect for and acceptance of varied ideas and opinions

Art

developing fine motor coordination through cutting, folding, tracing, drawing, writing, and painting
becoming aware of color, shape, size, texture
spatial relationships
developing self expression

Music

singing for fun
listening to a diverse collection of music
finger plays to improve coordination and use imagination
rhythm and movement for large motor development

Physical Education

body awareness, movement, eye-hand coordination, gross motor skill development

The children's activities will be centered around themes. Keeping the themes rather general will allow enough flexibility for us to follow the children's interests, be spontaneous, and take advantage of learning opportunities as they arise. As the children bring projects home, or talk about their day, we hope that parents will recognize and reinforce the skills which have been integrated into each activity. Notes will be sent home regularly letting parents know about our current themes. We welcome anything parents would like to share with the class pertaining to the theme: books, CD's, photos, or demonstrations. We believe partnering with parents will give children the best possible school experience.