

Bright Beginnings Weekday Program Purpose & Philosophy

Our Purpose

Is to extend the ministry of and help accomplish the mission statement of First Baptist Opelika, which is to “Lift up Jesus and Love People.”

Bright Beginnings is planned with the goals of providing safe and loving care of preschool children while helping each child enrolled to develop to his/her greatest potential spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and mentally.

Activities

Each class has planned learning activities appropriate for the age of the children, offering a balance of quiet and active play experiences. A bible story time is included each day as well as bible verses.

We offer speech and hearing screening for children 3 1/2 – 5 years of age. Music class is once a week for all ages. Our Pre-k classes get to attend Spanish class once a week.

Curriculum

Bright Beginnings uses the Wee Learn Curriculum. This curriculum is developed around themes that are designed to lay a foundation for understanding God, Jesus, and the Bible, church, self, others and the natural world. It uses hands –on learning in a learning center environment: books, art, blocks, home living, nature, puzzles and manipulatives.

Our Pre-k classes use the Letter People curriculum in addition to the Wee Learn Curriculum. Our Kindergarten program uses the curriculum from My Father’s World called God’s Creation from A to Z.

How Preschoolers Learn

Bright Beginnings seeks to provide an environment to meet each child’s needs and abilities. We strive to provide growth in all areas of the child’s development.

- Physical – Through outdoor play on our playground children develop large muscle skills. Small muscle skills are cultivated through a variety of activities inside and outside the classroom.
- Mental – Developmentally appropriate centers, games and activities are planned to enhance each child’s academic development.
- Social – Interaction with other children through free and structured play with teacher guidance leads to the development of social behavior.
- Emotional – Bright Beginning’s program provides an environment where children feel safe and loved. Through success each day, self-esteem is enhanced.
- Spiritual – Through Bible thoughts, stories and teacher interaction, children develop an understanding that Jesus loves them. Children are special because God makes them.

One and Two year olds

The teachers in the Toddler and Two year old classes provide a loving and safe environment in which a young child can explore and practice independence, build vocabulary, and expand social skills.

Three year olds

In the three-year-old classes, children make a gradual transition into a more structured environment. The focus is to provide opportunities for play and making choices, and pre-academic skills.

Four year olds

In the four-year-old classes letters and sounds are introduced and math concepts are explored. Children still spend much of their time in self directed play and developing social skills. Although the curriculum is more academic in nature, our focus is to create a love for learning by exposing the children to these concepts without insisting on mastery.

Five year olds (Kindergarten)

In Kindergarten classes a multi-sensory phonics approach is used to teach letter names, sounds, sound blending, handwriting, and short vowel sounds. Math skills taught include counting objects, writing numerals, preparing and understanding charts and graphs, classifying, and sequencing. Ordinal numbers are introduced as well as fractions, clocks, coins, addition and subtraction.