

## **Orchard Park Learning Center Philosophy**

### **What is a play based preschool?**

Children learn best through play. Play develops many skills that are important for children to be successful in school. Play allows children to make observations and connections that are meaningful. Play can come in many forms including imaginary play (dress up), open ended activities (building with blocks), or more defined activities (puzzles). For example, building with blocks will help children learn about spatial relationships including learning to judge distance, space, and size. This can lead to success in math and science in the elementary years. Playing with small interlocking blocks will develop small muscle control that is needed for learning to write. Having a variety of options for play is essential for later accomplishment.

### **What is meant by "Christian preschool?"**

The Learning Center is a Christian preschool. God and His word are a vital part of our curriculum. Each class has a dedicated Bible time each day. During this time the class engages in an interactive and age appropriate Bible story which includes a Bible verse and songs. We begin the year with the story of creation and move through the Old Testament stories which include Noah and Moses. During December we focus on the birth of Jesus and continue to learn about the life of Jesus throughout the second half of the year. The Bible stories are not limited to Bible time but are included throughout the day through art, sensory play, and story time.

### **Do children have opportunities for large muscle and outdoor play?**

All classes have daily scheduled time on our courtyard playground or in our carpeted gymnasium. Both areas have developmentally appropriate equipment available for the children's use.

### **What qualifications do your teachers have?**

In our preschool classes, all of our lead teachers are required to have a degree in early childhood or elementary education. All of our teachers are CPR trained.