

Early Childhood Curriculum

Preschool – 4 year olds

Christian Education

- Learn that the Bible tells us about God and His Son, Jesus Christ
- Learn about the world that God created and how God provides for them through his creation
- Understand that they can talk to God whenever and wherever they are
- Find out how biblical people served God and how boys and girls today can serve Him
- Learn that the Church building is a special place that requires appropriate behavior
- Desire to obey parents and teachers as an expression of their love and praise for God
- Worship God together with their classmates, expressing thanks for God's love and care
- Be kind, helpful, and cooperative at school and home
- Participate in stories, finger plays and songs which teach scripture and biblical truths

Social Development

- Develop play skills (initiate play, join in a group, make suggestions, take suggestions, recognize ways to deal with unpleasant situations and the emotions associated with them)
- Learn to play independently
- Develop friendship and relationship skills
- Become aware of other people's point of view, opinions, and attitudes
- Learn to respond appropriately to guidance from an adult
- Perceive adults as a source of support and modeling
- Identify the reasons for classroom rules
- Learn to respond appropriately with peers
- Develop skills related to self-control
- Develop independence related to personal items such as backpacks, lunch boxes, and rest mats
- Learn manners and other respectful behaviors
- Learn how to work with others toward a common goal
- Develop positive attitudes toward people who are different from themselves
- Become aware of how people live together in families and communities
- Develop a sense of responsibility for the environment, especially related to school facilities

Language Arts

Listening

- Participate in experiences that enhance and challenge listening skills (music, stories, conversation, audiotapes, videos)
- Demonstrate courteous listening behavior by looking at the speaker, sitting attentively, waiting for a turn to speak and responding to oral cues
- Expand vocabulary and prior knowledge base
- Identify and discriminate likenesses and differences among sounds (environmental sounds, words, etc.)
- Improve their ability to focus on oral content and ignore distractions
- Respond to oral directions
- Demonstrate auditory memory by repeating what they hear in correct detail and sequence including name, address, and phone number
- Follow 3 consecutive directions

- Demonstrate comprehension by:

- retelling, in their own words, the message or stories they hear and videos that they see
- responding to oral language with related comments and questions
- verbally linking personal experiences to what they have heard

Speaking

- Experiment with language sounds (rhythm, volume pitch) and words (intonation and expression)
- Expand the abilities to:
 - speak in complete sentences and share ideas in complete sentences
 - express emotions and desires
 - describe single event or multiple events in sequential order and with the proper referencing
 - ask questions and demonstrate an understanding of the answer
 - tell stories about pictures
 - become more fluent and coherent in their speech
 - participate in group discussions
 - participate in creative, dramatic activities

Phonemic Awareness

- Listens to a variety of sounds including music, sound patterns, environmental and letter
- Identify and produce rhyming patterns when “playing” with language
- Discriminate between same and different sounds and words (/d/ & /t/, dog & dig)
- Be verbally introduced to vowel and consonant sounds and will be able to reproduce those sounds

Pre-Writing

- Learn correct pencil grip and beginning strokes to develop printing skills
- Learn proper paper positioning
- Learn left-to-right and top-to-bottom progression
- Utilize their own stage of writing (scribbling, drawing and letter approximations)
- Writes own name
- Writes letters of the alphabet

Pre-reading

- Form habits of observing, requesting, and enjoying literature
- Use the classroom and school library to find books
- Practice moving from “pretend reading” to matching the flow of their own words with book illustrations
- Develop reading readiness skills:
 - recognize the front and back of the book
 - recognize left to right progression of print
 - recognize left to right page progression
 - recognize top to bottom progression of print
- Listen to the teacher and discuss the elements of a story
- Make predictions
- Distinguish between real and make believe

Mathematics

Pre-mathematical Concepts

- Connect mathematics with daily living and problem solving
- Identify, reproduce, complete, and extend various formats of patterns

- Classify objects by attributes
- Order objects by length, size, and volume
- Explore the concept of zero and basic sequential numeration 0-10
- Work with objects in sets as a way of expressing the idea of collection or groups
- Identify 9 colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, white, and brown)
- Associate the concept of quantity with the appropriate number
- Expand their ability to count by rote
- introduce numerals 11-20
- Identify numerals 0-10
- Build upon the concept of calendar
- Extend geometric shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, star, diamond)
- Expand vocabulary relating to location concepts (between, above, below, under, over, in, inside, outside, on top of, beside, and close to)
- Understand how temperature effects daily living
- Increase mathematical vocabulary (estimate, graph, pattern, classify, sort, predict, more, less, same, different)
- Participate in recording data (graphing)
- Expand spatial awareness of symmetry, balance, height, and directionality by using a variety of manipulatives such as unit cubes and blocks

Pre-Science

- Examine objects and events using appropriate sensory abilities
- Gather information by collecting, classifying, ordering, measuring, and sequencing
- Explore weather patterns using the senses
- Explore cause and effect relationships
- Participate in simple experimentation

Movement

Fine Motor

- Practice fine motor skills and increase small muscle coordination through daily play activities such as stringing beads, inserting pegs into pegboards, manipulating puzzle pieces, painting with various tools, handling scissors, rolling and shaping clay, pretend writing in sand or salt, using chalk, markers, crayons, and pencils to draw or write
- Learn proper hand position when using scissors to cut straight lines, curves and zigzag lines
- Learn proper hand position and pencil grip when using writing instruments

Gross Motor

- Increase proficiency in locomotor skills (walk, run, gallop, slide, hop, skip, jump)
- Develop eye-hand and eye-foot coordination skills (throw, catch and kick)
- Develop stability (swing, sway, twist, turn, bend, stretch)
- Daily practice using large muscle groups
- Attain and maintain adequate levels of sustained activity with such activities as walking, jogging, dancing, climbing, or completing obstacle courses
- Identify five senses and match parts of the body with each sense
- Increasing control of self help skills such as snap, button and zip clothing

Physical Activity

Health

- Develop coordination, flexibility, and agility
- Describe and experience space, directionality (personal space, general space, forward, backward, sideward, diagonally, and in various patterns)
- Increase knowledge of factors important to good health by developing good nutritional habits

- Learn how to keep their bodies fit
- Know the importance of rest, sleep, and exercise
- Practice appropriate personal hygiene (washing hands)

Social

- Identify safety procedures and rules
- Recognize safe practices and talk about dangerous situations
- Develop a positive body image and physical self concept by experiencing success in movement and health related skills
- Develop respect for others' personal space and control for their own bodies

Arts

Creative Dramatics

- Create play themes
- Dramatize familiar stories, songs, poems, and past events
- Listen to storytelling and poetry (finger plays)
- Integrate construction sets and/or props into pretend episodes
- Develop self-awareness through dramatic play
- Explore space using expressive movements
- Imitate sounds and recreate objects in dramatic play
- Encourage the ability to imagine

Music

- Sing songs and play instruments in a group in music class
- Be exposed to various forms of music
- Sing songs that relate to units of study
- Sing songs and play musical games from different cultures
- Participate in action songs and games
- Memorize songs, words, and tunes
- Practice appropriate audience behavior during a live performance

Visual Arts

- Gain pleasure from art sensory experiences
- Become familiar with various mediums (clay, play doh, paints, crayons)
- Create artwork using a variety of colors, forms, tools, materials, and techniques
- Become familiar with the basic elements of visual arts (line, color, form, shape, and texture)
- Work collaboratively with others in art
- Recognize their own strengths as creative artists
- Exposure to their own cultural heritage and that of others through art
- Create and describe their own art work

Computer Technology

- Show awareness of basic parts and hardware components of the computer
- Use input devices such as the mouse and keyboard appropriately
- Follow acceptable use policies when using the computers
- Use multimedia programs for classroom reinforcement