

# CURRICULUM

## 18 MONTHS - 2 YEARS OLD

**Math** - We explore spatial relations such as far and near, big and small, familiarize children with the numbers 1-10 by counting in our songs and play, and through the use of toys and projects, familiarize children with a variety of shapes.

**Science** - We explore the world around us, following the interests of the children, using a variety of our five senses. The most fundamental part of science is the desire for discovery, which all young children have.

**Language** - We encourage the use of language through songs, story time, and circle time. We familiarize children with the alphabet through projects and songs. Early language skills are very individual and we understand that children learn in different ways and at different paces. We mold our language programs around the skills and interests of the child.

**Daily Skills** - We feel that learning simple daily skills boosts children's self-esteem and dexterity. We teach skills such as hand washing and pouring. We feel it helps to give young children a sense of independence.

**Social** - Children learn so many different things through socialization and play. We build good values, manners, and character traits such as sharing and being kind to others all while providing a warm and nurturing environment where the children will feel safe interacting with their peers.

**Religion** - Religion is part of our daily routine. Prayers will be included before snacks and meals. We teach simple Christian values and lessons that are easy for young children to grasp. We want our children to know that God loves them.

**Music** - We integrate music into our daily activities using finger plays, songs, and other interactive teaching methods. We introduce them to rhythms and beats with instruments, games, exercising, and dancing.

**Art** - Our artwork is more about the process than product. Art is a great way for a child to express themselves while exploring their own creativity through their senses. It helps to build self-esteem, dexterity, and to familiarize them with many colors and shapes. We give the children ample opportunities to explore art. We use glue, markers, clay, paints, crayons, paper, child scissors, glitter, and many other things.

**Physical Activities** - The development of large and small muscles is accomplished with indoor and outdoor play. We use balls, playground equipment, and games to help the child develop these muscles.

# CURRICULUM

## 3-5 YEAR OLDS

Areas of interest are presented to the children at their own level. Activities are directed toward the child's own rate of development.

**Creative activities** - Crayons, paint, paste, scissors, clay, etc. provide the child an opportunity for self-expression and give the satisfaction of creating on her/his own.

**Music** - Recorded music, singing, band instruments, games, and exercises are all a part of the appreciation of music, rhythm, and group participation.

**Language and numbers** - Appreciation of language is developed by listening to stories, telling experiences, dramatic play, and "show and tell". Numbers become a part of the many concepts the children learn, as well as counting, recognizing numerals, quantitative, ordinal and positional concepts, and use of the calendar and the clock.

**Physical activity**- Developing large and small muscles is accomplished with indoor and outdoor play. The use of balls, climbing apparatus, as well as running, skipping, hopping, jumping, zipping, tying shoes, and buttoning help the child develop these muscles.

**Interest centers** - Dramatic play, unit blocks, vehicles, table toys and games, floor and table puzzles, and traditional and "Big" books all provide opportunities for the child to develop imagination and to play and share with other children.

**Enrichment for 4-5 year olds** - Once a week the four year old classes rotate among each of the four year old teachers to have special classes devoted to Math and cooking/science/nutrition. Doing rotations prepares the students for kindergarten when they will rotate among related arts classes. (Topics are subject to change.)

**Assessment** - Each child's progress is assessed at least twice a year using observation, planned activities and comparisons to developmental norms. We reserve the right to use the *Ages and Stages Questionnaire* to assess your child's development. If, at any time, there are concerns about your child's progress, we will bring those concerns to your attention. While we are happy to discuss your child's progress at any time, special attention is made to his/her progress during the spring parent/teacher conference.

The 4 year old classes (VPK) focus on developing pre-kindergarten skills such as: following directions, increased attention span, completing tasks, etc. During the 4 year old year, the teachers utilize the Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum to develop the writing skills necessary for success in kindergarten.