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Childrenspace North Curriculum

Childrenspace North is a child centered program with a play-based approach to learning. We meet each child at their developmental level as our goal is to help children foster their skills so they may reach the next stage of their development with success. Below you will find concepts that we weave throughout activities in the classroom to promote a love of learning and a community filled with exploration, inclusion and self-confidence. These concepts and activities are differentiated to meet the needs of each child and each classroom at every stage of development, from our youngest infants to our oldest preschoolers.

Self-Concept

Names
Family members
Features
Body parts
Age, sex
Address
Talking about feelings and expressing feelings
Discussing similarities and differences
Tolerance of others
Periodic self-portraits

Self-Help Skills

Choosing and following through on meals
Cleaning up after play and meals
Toilet independence
Dressing and undressing
Learning rules and routines

Hand washing independence

Fine Motor Activities

Cutting

Pasting, gluing

Stamping

Coloring with crayons, pencils, markers, cray-pas, outdoor chalk, etc.

Drawing

Mixing colors using food coloring & eye droppers

Tracing

Using tactile materials: clay, playdough, salt dough, goop, shaving cream, rice, pasta, water, etc.

Lacing

Playing with manipulatives: blocks, Duplos, Legos, K'nex, Lincoln Logs, puzzles, etc.

Gross Motor Activities

Calisthenics

Movement games: Simple Simon, Hokey Pokey, Duck-Duck-Goose, Red Light, Green Light, Hide & Seek

Hiking

Climbing

Sliding

Jump rope

Hopscotch

Swinging

Tossing and catching

Dancing

Sledding

Basketball

Soccer

T-ball

Bicycle riding

Yoga- once a week with instructor

Social Play/Social Studies

Dramatic play using houses, doll furniture, airports, castles, garages, spaceships, etc.

Acting out family and home situations

Acting out school situations

Acting out community situations (stores, roles of community helpers)

Acting out potentially anxiety-producing situations (dentist, doctor)

Geography: map of Croton showing where students live

Map of New York State showing location of Croton

Discussion of different states – where children have been on vacation, where relatives live, etc.
Puzzle maps of the United States – discussion of size and location of states they have visited – largest, smallest, farthest from home, etc.
Globe of the world – many of our children come from/have relatives in other countries.
Sharing of different languages, ways of celebrating holidays, folk stories, foods.
Discussion of history behind certain holidays: Thanksgiving, Columbus Day, Earth Day, New Year’s Day, etc.

Science

Nature walks
Discussions of seasons
Identification of trees, leaves, flowers
Observation of small animals: frogs, grasshoppers, caterpillars, etc.
Science experiments
Measuring
Sand and water play
Magnetism
The Solar System: discussion of gravity, orbits, space travel, etc.
Art projects with natural objects: leaf printing, food printing, rock sculptures, rock painting
Gardening
Dinosaurs, sharks, farm animals, animal families
Discussion of recycling with concrete examples – (e.g., “recycling” toys by trading)

Language Arts

Verbally sharing experiences: show & tell, group conversations
Story time
Book corner
Dramatic play
Puppetry
Charades
Impromptu plays – elements of story, sequencing
Dramatic productions for parents
Perceptual skill-building: Picture Dominoes, Lotto, Parquetry Blocks
Organizing and classifying skill-building: matching and sorting, Attribute Blocks (size, color, shape, thickness discrimination)
Letter recognition: alphabet puzzles, alphabet bingo
Left-to-right orientation: big books, ring sorting, make-a-picture
Visual memory training: Concentration, “which object is missing?”
Patterning: Parquetry Blocks, stringing beads
Vocabulary building: Lingo, story books with CDs
Sequencing: story cards

Listening skills: reading, CDs, following directions, show & tell
Learning to recognize names in print
Child-dictated stories that enhance language experience – children dictate stories to the teacher who then writes them down. Children can often remember their own words – the stories they are reading are their own.
List books – Children create books about “Things that are Red” or “What I Like to Do in The Spring”, “Food I Like to Eat”, etc. Children cut out pictures and write one identifying word
Discussion of word families
Word recognition: labeling
“Word wall” to build sight vocabulary
Writing with dots, copying, independent writing

Number Relationships

Measuring
Cooking
Rote counting: counting of children, objects, board games that require counting of spaces
Graduated puzzles that go from small to large
Spatial relationships: blocks, tangrams, mazes, puzzles
Size discrimination: Attribute blocks
Sequencing of numbers: dot-to-dots, number puzzles
Matching numerals with objects
Recognition of similar numerical configurations
Card games that require number recognition, number matching and recognition of number configuration on dice: Number dominoes, Uno
Opportunities to practice simple addition & subtraction
Chip trading: experiences with conversions from one-place numeral to two-place numerals with bases other than ten. Basis for later learning of “carrying.”

Music

Music sessions- Music Together once a week
Listening to CDs
Identifying instruments
Using instruments
Identifying rhythms
Discussion of mood in music
Dancing, movement
Art to music
Music and dancing outside
Learning & singing songs in English, French & Spanish

Art

Painting with tempera, water colors, etc.

Clay

Wood constructions

Paper constructions

Collage

Weaving

Printing

Origami

Game construction

Paper Mache

Bead jewelry

Yarn pictures

Melted crayon pictures