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UPK 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. We meet or exceed all NY State Standards for Kindergarten readiness.

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

Writing first name

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

Social Play/Social Studies

Sharing cultures and developing an awareness and appreciation of one's own culture and those around us

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

Weather

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

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