

RING AROUND THE ROSIE

The Current Beliefs for a Good Pre- K Program

A wonderful thing to see in a Pre-K Classroom is hands-on learning that gets children involved. It enhances the child's curiosity and desire to learn in large and group activities. Many of these are found in our projects, science experiments or stations.

- Books - Reading out loud, story time and the library center
- Blocks, building and puzzles - Teaches to count and order their world
- Arts and crafts - Offers the joy of creative self-expression
- Dress up - Allows our children to try on different roles in their community (fire fighter, teacher, chef, doctor, parent, police)

Social and Emotional Development is the most important thing your child can get from a pre-school. Through interactions with teachers and peers they develop social skills and a sense of self-worth. In this setting the child will develop the skills for success in school. Learning the important social skills at pre-school opens the doors for unobstructed learning in Kindergarten and future education.

- Understanding the social rules that govern our school and our environment
- Achieve a sense of wellbeing through better understanding of themselves, their peers and adults
- How to get along with others in a new environment
- Establish trusting relationships with adults and other children
- The classroom encourages children to do things for themselves
- The encouragements of new friendships
- How to cooperate and follow instructions
- Working in small and large groups children learn to share and work it out

The language development we encourage promotes successful communication skills to enhance the ability to learn.

- Using spoken language to express ideas
- Being able to retell a familiar story or share what they did last night
- Expand vocabulary with synonyms and antonyms
- Use language to solve problems with others
- Learn how words can express your wants and needs without using physical confrontations

Children take part in activities that promote physical development of fine and gross muscles. They recognize physical activity as an important part of a healthy lifestyle.

- Gross motor activities develop strength
- Balance and stability by walking on a balance beam and playing outdoors
- Running, jumping, hopping and climbing develop coordination
- Throwing, kicking and catching also promote physical strength
- Working with puzzles, blocks, beads, play-doh, sand and water develop early pre-writing skills for tactile learning
- Using scissors, stapler and other tools are fine motor hands on learning

Early literacy activities lay foundation for the development of the ability to read and write. Our room is filled with materials that encourage the basics.

- Recognizing signs in the world (S-T-O-P as a stop sign)
- Items in the classroom are labeled for understanding a purpose of print
- Gaining knowledge and familiarity of the alphabet
- Expressing ideas through drawing and print

Math and science provide children with hands on experiences to help make sense of their environment.

- Interaction with manipulative such as blocks, beads and shapes helps to explore the concepts of numbers, shapes, quantity, sequencing, patterns, measurement and problem solving
- Life science teaches concepts of where and how people, animals and plants live
- It forms an understanding of earth, the day and night sky, dirt and water.
- Science also provides the fundamental ideas about sound, movement, weight, volume and light

Creative arts give the children an opportunity to explore creative expression in art music and dance. These materials can reflect the culture of the children and their families as well as their community.

- Projects encourage the five senses touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight
- Markers, crayons, paper, and paints enhance self-expression
- Music and dance develops a sense of rhythm and expands emotions