

Preschool Curriculum Guide

Our Preschool curriculum strongly aims to follow the guidelines in the Joliet Diocese Handbook and aligns directly with the Illinois Early Learning Standards in all subject area. Research proves children at these early stages of life develop and learn best through play. In following this research, activities are designed to create hands-on and exploratory learning opportunities. All areas of development are covered in both child-initiated and teacher-directed activities.

Religion & Science

We are blessed to teach our youngest learners about our Catholic beliefs. Each day we recite prayers several times throughout the day and speaking about the world he created for us. We will learn about the life and family of our Savior and all he did for us. We are given the opportunity to learn that plants, animals, and human beings are God's creations. We will explore our world and life around us that God created.

- Reciting common prayers
- Display appropriate respect for others & God
- Exhibit a Christian behavior
- Discovers he/she is a child of God
- Learn how to show God's love to others
- Listen to bible stories
- Explore science tools: magnets, magnifying glasses, etc
- Observe weather each day
- Observe weather and plant life during each season
- Identify basic colors and explore color mixing

Math Skill

Number sense is introduced in many different ways throughout the year. Math concepts are taught during circle time each day including, basic shapes, counting, patterns, sorting, etc. Students will learn to not only count, but be able to count with one-to-one correspondence. They will learn to identify numbers in and out of order.

- Recognize all basic colors
- Rote counting
- Counting with one-to-one correspondence
- Recognize numbers 0-20

- Recognize 6 basic shapes
- Recognize & repeat a simple AB, AABB pattern
- Match pairs
- Sort objects

Language

Language skills are a large part of the child-directed learning that happens when children begin preschool. Students will be exposed to letters and their sounds, where they will begin to use them to spell names, colors, etc. Not only will they learn the tools in order to spell and read, they are given opportunities to use speech as a means of expressing themselves and identifying who they are verbally. This is a skill that is practiced each day with singing, calendar, etc.

- Recognize and print first and last name
- Recite the alphabet
- Recognize all upper/ lower case letters: isolated and out of order
- Beginning letter sounds
- Knows birthday and age
- Recognize basic Rhyme patterns
- Ability to interpret pictures
- Speak clearly in simple sentences
- Ability to follow 3-step instructions
- Retell a story based on pictures

Motor Skills

Large and small motor skills are addressed on a daily basis. Students will be exposed to coloring, cutting, assembling puzzles, and play-based activities designed to encourage strengthening of those fine motor skills. Our children attend gym, dance, etc. many times throughout the week focusing in on those large motor muscles.

- Catch, bounce, and throw a ball
- Ability to hop, jump and clap with ease
- Holds crayons/pencil with pincer grip

- Handles scissors properly
- Follow simple lines while cutting
- Uses glue properly
- Ability to maintain an adequate attention span
- Avoid others personal space
- Uses materials appropriately

Social-Emotional

Students are learning who they are and how to act at school. During the year students are challenged to become young, exploratory learners. This means the ability to interact appropriately with others, make good decisions, and conduct themselves in a way that shows our Catholic values. These skills are generally child-directed learning experiences that are reinforced by teachers during circle time, free-choice play, specials, etc..

- Plays and works well with others
- Willing to try new things
- Sharing with others & taking turns
- Exhibit self-control & self-confidence
- Obey school/classroom rules & follow directions
- Talk with children during play
- Able to express thoughts/feelings
- Seeks help when needed
- Varies play from day-to-day
- Listen without interrupting
- Ability to complete tasks