

Pre-Kindergarten curriculum (4 year old class)

- Play Based Program with specialized learning stations
- Low Adult/Child ratio (1:4)
- Social development
- Art/creativity center
- Pre-math activities
- Large and small motor activities
- Pre-reading and pre-writing activities
- Music and movement activities
- Field trips, decision-making and problem-solving activities
- Dramatic play
- Large and small group activities
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are held twice a year, in November and March

4-year-old program

The foundation of the program is already in place for those children who were in our 3-year-old class. For those new students, we may find that we have to work a little bit more in the areas where they need some additional assistance. Each day begins with a little bit of structured free play to allow the parents to get their child set into their routine and say their good-byes. Then, we move right into circle time, where we feed our fish (the 4's class gets the opportunity to take the fish home on the weekends and write a story about their adventures), we graph what is going on with the weather, and we talk about our calendar and how to find out what month, date and day of the week it is. We create patterns with our dates, which get increasingly harder as the year progresses. We have an alphabet bag that each child gets a chance to take home. When the bag is taken home, the child gets to fill it with things that begin with the letter that we are working on, and bring it back to school to share with our class. We sing songs, do finger plays and talk about our theme for the week.

Everyday we have two art projects relating to our weekly themes. One of these projects is more creative (easel painting, collage creations, finger paint, shaving cream, etc.) and the other is more focused on the child's fine motor skills (writing letters and words, using scissors, etc.) Your child's senses are explored at our water, rice, sand, and bean tables. In our large motor area, we have the children playing with everything from blocks to our tumbling mat. The dramatic play and the reading areas are open to the children daily.

The activities at our learning stations are rotated weekly, as are our sensory table and our large motor area. The children enjoy exploring the many different aspects of our classroom and have the opportunity to choose the areas that they would like to visit daily. All of this is accomplished with hands-on activities that excite and promote the enthusiasm for learning that we feel is very important for preschoolers.

We give the children the opportunity to play outside on our playground (weather permitting) at the end of each class to strengthen their muscles and work on their coordination. When the weather is not cooperating, we play inside; we might form a marching band, play with our parachute, or play musical chairs. We have a dental hygienist visit us in September to talk about how to keep our teeth healthy. We also take a trip to the apple orchard in September and then a trip to the pumpkin patch in October. After the New Year we have a police officer visit to talk with the children about stranger safety. During this time, we help the children to learn their address and phone number. Then we go to the fire station during our unit on fire safety.