

Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool

2007/2008 Curriculum Pre-K

The Program

There are various types of preschool programs. We are a unique combination of three different classifications:

1. **Faith-based:** First and foremost, we are a non-profit, Christian school. Our curriculum is Christ-centered and Bible-based.
2. **Academic:** Kindergarten preparedness takes place through hands-on activities. Teaching goals and curriculum guidelines are in place for the school year (including summer).
3. **Developmental:** Teachers complete weekly lesson plans, based on children's individual needs and interests, as well as teaching goals/monthly curriculum guidelines.

The Curriculum

Because we incorporate both academic and developmental components in our program, we also implement two different types of curricula:

1. Theme-based, yearly curriculum. Teaching units are in place to ensure that important areas of study are covered each school year.
2. Emergent Curriculum: The weekly lesson plan is tailored to take into consideration individual needs and interests of the children in each classroom.

Weekly activities take place in the following areas of study:

Voyages Bible, Language Arts, Science, Reading Readiness, Physical Education/Recreational Games, Social Studies, Concept Learning, Learning Centers, Saxon Phonics, Arts and Crafts, Mathematics, Music, Rhythms, Creative Movement, Cooking, Health and Safety, and Literature

Curriculum includes:

- Letter(s) and number(s) of the week, monthly color/shape
- Self awareness, safety, health habit, and practical life topics
- Missions and Cultural studies

In addition, the following units of studies are introduced:

Apples, Me/My feelings, My Family, Five Senses, Special Needs People, Community and Career Awareness/Fire Safety, Christopher Columbus, My Friends, Autumn, The

World of Make-Believe; Fears, Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes, Book Appreciation, Pilgrims, Pilgrims and Native Americans, Thanksgiving, Christmas Around the World, Nativity, Celebrate Christmas, Winter Wonderland, Winter, Road and Rail Transportation, Air and Space Transportation, Weather; Wind, Musical Instruments, St. Patrick's Day; Missionaries, Insects and Spiders, Spring and Seasons, Secular/Sacred Easter, Easter, Plants and Growing Things, Wonderful World of Color, Art in Action, Circus, Dinosaurs, Woodland; Wild, Zoo Animals, Pet and Farm Animals, Water Animals, Summer, Sand and Sea, Vacation Time, America's Birthday, Patriotism, Cowboys and Pioneers, Water Around Me, Outer Space; Planets, Science Fair; Magnets and Electricity, Food and Nutrition, Nature and Camping, Multicultural Studies

Classroom Placement

At Good Shepherd, we believe that it is most beneficial for children to be grouped by birth date. We believe that "peer group placement" provides the optimum setting for meeting the individual needs of each child.

The "whole" child is taken into consideration (cognitive, social, emotional and physical development). Many times a child who is excelling beyond his or her peers in one area of development may not be as advanced in another area. For this reason, a child that is performing at a higher level in academics would not necessarily be placed with an older peer group. Early Childhood is the time for all of these areas of development to be addressed, prior to kindergarten entrance.

We strive to maintain a low teacher to child classroom ratio so that individual needs can be met. Since there are so many different learning styles (auditory, visual, interactive, kinesthetic, etc.) teachers plan activities that support individuality.

Assessment

Portfolios are kept for all of the children for the purpose of monitoring individual progress throughout the year. Assessments will take place to identify strengths and areas of growth, and to assist parents in determining kindergarten readiness. Portfolios and assessments will be reviewed at parent/teacher conferences, which are held each March.

Parent Involvement

Since the very foundation of early childhood education is centered around teachable opportunities (taking advantage of experiences in everyday life), many of the concepts your child is learning at school can be reinforced at home. A simple trip to the grocery store provides opportunities for letter, number, and word recognition. Your child's teacher can give you feedback on skills that may require reinforcement at home. Since children are now typically reading in Kindergarten (and sometimes preschool), one of the best things you can do is read books with your child.