

## **Pre-K 4 Curriculum**

### **Early Literacy**

Students participate in a variety of activities related to literacy. Students learn letter names and sounds and to identify upper and lower case letters. They are taught to recognize, spell, and write their name. Sight words, word families, and sound spelling are introduced. Children learn proper pencil grip and are taught to communicate thoughts and feelings through drawing and writing or dictation. During class children listen to and explore books, stories, poems, and picture books. They also learn the parts of a book and the left to right concept of print. Students are exposed to sequencing stories, retelling stories, and discussing stories. In the second half of the year students are introduced to the expectations and format of Reader's and Writer's Workshop in order to smooth the transition to Kindergarten.

### **Early Mathematics**

Children are active learners and do best when they can freely explore materials and concepts. Our math instruction is a hands-on approach to learning mathematical concepts. Young children learn best when they can manipulate materials and explore ideas concretely before using symbols (in this case numerals) to represent concepts. In Pre-K 4's children are exposed to pre-math concepts while exploring a wide variety of materials. They participate in both whole group and small group lessons. Topics covered include counting and number skills, shapes, measurement, time, patterns, sorting, classifying, and comparisons

### **Science**

In PK4 students participate in numerous hands on activities to explore a variety of topics including plant growth, life cycles, and weather. Basic tools of science such as magnets, and magnifying glasses are introduced. Students are taught to explore the world using the five senses.

### **Social Skills**

Social skill instruction is a very important part of the Pre-K 4 curriculum. Students are taught to share classroom materials and work cooperatively in small and large groups. They practice manners, solve conflicts, and communicate needs effectively. Children explore social roles through play and learn about our community. Students learn the concepts of fairness, friendship, responsibility and authority. Throughout the year children will participate in activities to positively impact the community and environment (service projects, recycling, etc.).

### **Spanish**

Students will demonstrate receptive and productive knowledge of the language. They will explore some of the same themes they learn in the regular classroom, such as colors, numbers, calendar, weather, and emotions. The language is taught with emphasis on speaking.

## **Technology**

Preschool tech classes consist of familiarizing students with the components of the computer including mouse operation and simple keyboarding in conjunction with learning the letters of the alphabet. Students are allowed to explore and experiment using age-appropriate software programs such as Kid Pix, Starfall, and other Internet sites designed for children.

## **Media Center**

Students receive library orientation and become accustomed to coming to the Media Center on a weekly basis. They are introduced to computer basics and allowed to explore independently as well as through guided teaching the basic use of a computer. Students are exposed to a variety of literature through read-aloud and other media such as Flannel Board, Puppets, CDs, DVDs, and Internet. Students select books to look at based on personal interest through independent browsing within a well-defined area of the Media Center. Book care is emphasized. Listening skills and following directions are developed as well as an understanding of library behavior.

## **Art**

Art is an important part of your child's early childhood education. Children are active learners, and making art is a hands-on activity that expands imaginations and exercises creativity. It also develops small motor control and eye/hand coordination, and sharpens children's powers of observation. Children learn the fundamentals of art — color, line, shape, form and texture — by painting and drawing, making collages, fashioning three-dimensional objects out of clay, and talking about their work. Three year olds recognize patterns, learn about primary colors, and discover how to mix two colors to make a third. By creating art and looking at it, children gain an understanding of composition, balance, and symmetry.

## **Music**

Children participate in creative movement, imitating and creating rhythmic patterns on instruments as well as through body percussion. Emphasis is put on developing steady beat, developing listening skills and singing on pitch through simple music games and songs.

## **Physical Education**

Physical education programs for preschool children focus on providing opportunities for children to master motor skills and learn about physical movements. These programs are important since the skills learned at a young age provide the foundation for a person's attitudes toward physical activity later in life. Preschool physical education programs should therefore be designed to promote both fitness and child development. The goals of this program are: developing efficient movement skills, improving and maintaining physical fitness, enhancing coordination, reinforcing skills needed to cooperate with others, offering methods to resolve issues of cooperation in a mutually satisfying manner, and stimulating interest in anatomy, health, safety and the environment.