

PHILOSOPHY AND PROGRAM

The Pre-School Program is geared toward helping children discover rich years of living so that they can live those years with the greatest of joy, using their physical, intellectual, social and emotional powers to the fullest. A sound Christian setting will provide the stimuli in establishing basic values for their future. Religion is incorporated into aspects of Pre-School life - Loving, Caring, Respecting. We look upon each child as unique and special, therefore we will strive to meet the child "where he/she is." We draw upon the family as a source of support and assistance in the learning process of their children.

Our curriculum consists of many experiences based on the needs in these areas:

- Children need opportunities to observe, experiment and manipulate.
- Children need opportunities to express themselves through language, art, music, dramatic play and creative movement.
- Children need opportunities to develop motor skills for better control and coordination.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a setting where "LOVE" comes first and permeates the atmosphere.
- To build a positive self-concept and pride in each child.
- To provide appropriate and meaningful play experiences that are based upon individual needs, interests and age levels.
- To provide the opportunity of being with the same peer group for development of wholesome social relationships.
- To develop creative and intellectual abilities.
- To build an atmosphere that recognizes the importance of a caring relationship between child and adult.



ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

The program is designed for 3 and 4 year-old children whose birthdays are prior to December 1. Children must be toilet trained and have no serious medical or behavioral problems that would hinder participation in the program.

New York State requires that a doctor's health form must be filled out and returned to the school before the first day the child attends school.

SESSIONS: PreK-3 AM Tues, Thurs 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
 PreK-3 PM Tues, Thurs 11:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

 PreK-4 AM Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 PreK-4 PM Mon, Wed, Fri 11:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

CLASS SIZE: PreK-3 Max. class size – 16 students Student-Teacher ratio 8:1
 PreK-4 Max. class size – 22 students Student-Teacher ratio 11:1

SCHOOL CALENDAR

St. Joseph Pre-School will be in session from September through June. You will be given a copy of the official school calendar at the beginning of the school year.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Scheduled conferences will be held during the second semester at which time each child's progress is reviewed with parents.

TRANSPORTATION

Parents are responsible for the child's transportation. The school must be informed when someone else is picking up the child.

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS TO CORRELATE WITH OUR PROGRAM

- Teach your child to say his/her name, age and address.
- Encourage a collection of rocks, seeds, etc.
- Teach the names of animals and the sounds they make.
- Plant seeds to watch them grow.
- Teach colors by pointing out colors around the house or when traveling. Do this in stages, not all at once.
- Teach good health and safety habits.
- Teach your child the magic words, "please", "thank you" and "excuse me."



- Teach the differences in shapes (e.g., round, square) by pointing out objects around the house and outdoors.
- Let older children help along the way.
- Let your child color, paint, draw and do clay activities.
- Read stories, taking time to talk about the pictures.
- Teach simple songs or poems.
- Let your child be a helper, e.g., setting table, getting things in order.
- Discipline; give reason for punishment when the act is done. A child forgets all too quickly what happened. Be consistent.
- Be positive! Praise your child's successes.
- Stoop to your child's level when talking. The child will listen better.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER

Medium to large size backpack, to carry projects and weekly parent take home folder.
Please make sure backpack is clearly marked with child's name.

Change of clothes for your child in a sealed plastic bag. Include underwear, socks, and pants, etc. according to season. Make sure all clothing and bag are labeled with child's FIRST and LAST name and class, i.e. Pre-School, Mrs. Doyle – A.M. session. This bag of clothes will remain at school the entire year.

One box of 80 ct. baby wipes

One anti-bacterial soap

Classroom snacks to be provided by Pre-School 3 and 4 parents.
 Pre-School teachers will give out information the first week of school.



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SAMPLE OF A DAILY PROGRAM (A.M. or P.M.)

TIME	ACTIVITIES	GOALS
8:30 - 8:45	Arrival, greetings	Social growth, self-esteem and health awareness
8:45 - 9:00	CIRCLE TIME Prayer Calendar and topic Talk	Learning to express themselves Taking turns Listening to others
9:00 - 9:15	RELIGION	Awareness of God
9:15 - 10:00	GUIDED PLAY Individual/group play Arts-crafts-cooking Exploring Interest Ideas: a. Dramatic play b. Blocks - puzzles c. Fine motor activities d. Individual work with teacher on folders	Developing personal relationships and interactions Fostering ability to make choices Teaching care of materials Increasing fine motor skills
	SPECIALS	PK3 – Music Special once a week in music room PK4 – Music and Phys Ed once a week
10:00 - 10:15	SNACK - REST - QUIET	Develop responsibility for own needs Awareness of others' needs Experiment with new foods
10:15 - 10:30	Story - filmstrips Finger plays Nursery rhymes	Increase listening and memory skills Dramatic exploration
10:30 - 10:45	MUSIC Songs Creative movement Rhythmic activities	Express imagination and creativity Increase auditory skills Increase large motor skills and coordination
10:45 - 10:55	Prepare for dismissal	Evaluation of day Preparations for departure

