



Language Arts

Students are read a book connected to a learning theme daily. Reading and Listening Centers are a part of the daily routine. Students begin to appreciate books; recognize and recite the alphabet; recognize their first and last name in print; and begin writing the first letter of their first name.

Math

Instruction focuses on learning to count to, and recognize, numbers 1-20. Students are introduced to, and practice, basic sorting skills: recognizing, identifying and differentiating between shapes, sizes, and colors. Opposites such as big-little and few-many are explored. The students master basic color recognition and they become acquainted with numerical, one-to-one correlations.

Religion

In this course, 3K and 4K study together. The program is designed to build a strong foundation for spiritual and religious growth, nurturing the student to develop a sense of belonging within a greater community; one that celebrates the uniqueness of each child as an individual. Guided instruction aids students in their awareness of God in our daily lives. Children in Early Childhood are encouraged to be considerate and respectful of others, of their community and of the cultural diversity within their world. The children learn to recite the Guardian Angel Prayer, lunch prayer, and Our Father.

Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills are strengthened by: properly using scissors to cut paper; building towers using blocks; learning to use a glue stick; gluing with their finger or a Q-tip; copying a circle from a drawing; drawing a straight line; stringing beads pouring from a small pitcher; using small object to spread butter, etc. at meals; mastering 10-piece puzzles; and holding pencils and crayons properly.

Gross Motor Skills

Gross motor skills are developed and enhanced through practicing physical activities within a controlled, supervised setting and at play-times such as: hopping on one foot, throwing and catching a ball beginning skill, walking up and down steps; and running, walking, stomping, and marching to music.

Social/Emotional Skills

Social/Emotional skills are nurtured through the demonstration of mutual respect (teachers, classmates, and guests); sharing and learning to take turns, demonstrating self-control, separating easily from family upon arrival or at the end of a field trip or lunch visit, expressing negative feelings appropriately; transitioning easily; and willingly trying new activities.

Monthly Themes

August-September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Welcome to School All about Me Apples Leaves	Community Helpers Pumpkins Fall Halloween	Farm Animals Fruits & Vegetables Native Americans Thanksgiving	Snow Winter Christmas	New Year's Hibernating Colors Alphabet	Transportation Valentine's Day Dental Health Five Senses	Forest Animals St. Patrick's Day Pet Week Weather	Zoo Animals Spring Easter Trees	Caterpillars Mother's Day Flowers Bugs

*Enhancement/Enrichment:*

-  Field Trips
-  Guest Speakers



Language Arts

Books and reading introduce new vocabulary, making predictions, participating in story development, developing ideas, recalling characters and events, recognizing rhyming words, understanding the main ideas of stories, participating in group discussions and beginning to understand sequences in events. Personal drawings allow students to create their own stories, express themselves, and expand upon their new vocabulary. Alphabet songs and activities help the children learn the beginnings of sound and visual recognition of the upper case letters. A picture-wall associates images to their initial letter sounds. Writing the alphabet is strongly encouraged, as well as successfully printing their first names.

Math

Many mathematical concepts and skills are introduced through hands-on experiences. By learning the primary colors and basic shapes, a foundation is provided and built upon throughout the year. From this foundation the students then move into other areas such as sorting and classifying objects by color, shape and size. Students will also be able to identify copy, extend, and create patterns. Measurements are taken to explore different weights and heights. Bar and picture graphing are introduced, Measuring and graphing reinforce comparisons such as more, less, tall, and short. Number concepts begin with one-to-one correspondence and progress into counting, identify, and grouping numbers. Instruction of numerals zero to 20 occurs with emphasis on the single digits. Number writing is strongly encouraged.

Science

Because children have a desire to make sense of their experiences they are internally motivated by a sense of natural curiosity making science a natural element at this level. Early Childhood offers opportunities for hands-on experiences, exploration, and inquiry. Areas of study consist of the five senses, ocean life, food groups, and nutrition and health.

Social Studies

A safety unit is taught early in the school year so the children can become familiar with different safety procedures, drills, and their importance. Students learn how to prevent safety hazards. Through monthly emergency drills, they learn how to respond to an emergency. Students and families are encouraged to practice and implement emergency and safety procedures practiced at school at home. Community helpers and the roles they play are studied. Parents are encouraged to visit and share their careers. During an environmental section, the students learn how to protect the Earth by reusing, reducing waste, and recycling.

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August-September	October-November	December-January	February-March	April-May
Letters A-D	Letters E-K	Letters L-P	Letters Q-V	Letters W-Z
I Am Special	Sort-Classify-	Numerals 0-10	Measures-Graphs	Numerals 0-20
Basic Shapes	Patterns	Number Concepts	Lenten-Easter	April Showers-May
Primary Colors	Halloween-	Christmas	Valentine’s Day	Flowers
Fall Fun	Thanksgiving	Winter Wonderland	St. Patrick’s Day	Environment
Community Helpers	Safety First	Food/Nutrition/Health	Deep in the Ocean	Creepy Crawlers
	Five Senses		Rhyme Time	



### Language Arts

Individual letter books and related activities that focus on all aspects of the language arts: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Specific areas of focus include phonemic awareness (graphemes and phonemes), associating sounds with letters, blending sounds to form words, learning to read simple repetitive and predictable text, and introduction of vowels. Strong emphasis on recognizing sight words, vocabulary development, story sequencing, and learning to comprehend what is read. Learning is reinforced through the making of our own mini-books as well as with the use of Language Arts Centers such as manipulatives of alphabet pocket charts, computer educational software, and alphabet-related crafts, to name a few. In association with this learning process is a daily regiment of Journal Writing or Shared (Guided) Writing.

### Math

Identifying and writing numbers up to 30, counting by 1's to 100, skip counting by 5's and 10's to 100, introduction of different forms of weights and measurements, study of basic shapes and recognizing shapes in the world around us, introduction of various forms of currency and their values (penny, nickel, dime, and quarter), understanding weather and basic temperatures such as hot and cold, understanding sequential orders, symmetry, and introduction of basic fractions ( $1/2$  and  $1/4$ ). Math Centers are used to reinforce the learning and aid in "discovery learning".

### Science

Thematic Units are used throughout the year to introduce Science. Topics included a simple study of the solar system and each planet, understanding static electricity (using balloons), dental hygiene, and understanding how a seed transforms into a plant.

### Social Studies

Social Studies is introduced through a study of current events such as Winter Olympics. To make this an integrated unit, we draw (art) a picture of our favorite sports and graphed (math) them on a wall chart. We select one sport to further learn of how, when, and where it began (history). We read about the location of the current Olympics (geography), its weather (science), and make that country's flag. Numerous crafts are made through this month long event such as using plastic milk jugs to make our own Hockey Helmets. Finally, Social Studies is also introduced through a two-week session of "Junior Achievement for Kindergarteners" that is brought into the classroom.

### Religion

Students learn about Creation and the major stories of the Old and New Testaments. Basic themes include ways we show our families and others we care, learning to recite the Our Father and the Hail Mary, participating in Mass, and learning about the basic items used in Communion. Themed Units include Christmas and the Birth of Jesus as well as Easter and the Stations of the Cross. Authentic learning experiences (activities performed to reinforce the learning) include painting our own Crosses during the Season of Lent to learn about each Station of the Cross; reciting the Stations of the Cross for our Parents and Grandparents followed by Holy Thursday lunch in our classroom (focus: The Last Supper). We also plant our own Lenten Garden with the focus being learning to patiently wait for new life to grow.