

Welcome to Nursery!



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A Typical Morning

1. Morning Meeting - calendar, weather graphing, problem of the day, class games.
2. Time to learn about our theme of study. This is done various ways:
 - Books

- Songs
- Vocabulary
- Games
- Group Activities
- Individual Activities

3. Snack Time

4. Quiet time to look at a book, listen to a book or do a puzzle.

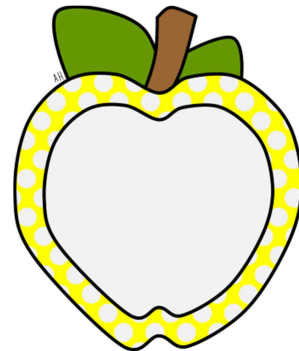
5. Exploration time at Centers.

6. Clean up and Closing Circle.

*Weather permitting we will go outside to play and have recess.

Each week students will also have:

- Reading and Learning Buddies
- Physical Education
- Music
- Computer
- Library



Learning Centers

The Nursery classroom consists of various learning centers encouraging different kinds of play. Children learn a great deal during centre time. They are constantly thinking, making decisions, solving problems, making plans, building, socializing, cooperating, sharing, experimenting, imagining, as well as developing hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.

Social Emotional Development Through Play

To understand why play is so important, it's necessary to answer the question, "What is play?" Most people would answer by saying that "play is fun."

Play is more complex than that: it is a very valuable way to learn. Play, for the child, is like thought or work for the adult. This is a natural process through which each child develops. It is the foundation of their learning. In their play they:

- Explore
- Plan
- Play Cooperatively
- Pretend
- Take Risks
- Develop Self-Control
- Accept/Respect their peers
- Think
- Experiment
- Discover
- Use Language
- Practice
- Solve Problems
- Make Choices
- Communicate their needs/feelings
- Imitate

All things children do in play help their development. Students in Nursery will be given 60 minutes every day for play and exploration.

Nursery Curriculum

Motor Development:

Children will be provided with a lot of opportunities for fine and basic motor activities. Children will handle small toys, cut, draw, paint, trace etc. These activities help develop fine motor muscles. Students will also have opportunities to lift, climb, jump, run etc. These activities help develop students large muscles.

Literacy Development:

Students will be given varied opportunities for speaking, listening, viewing and representing. These activities allow students to master speech sounds, speech

structure, grammar, enjoyment of language and self-expression. These also meet student's needs of being listened to, understood and valued.

Through rhymes, songs, chants and stories, concepts of print will be developed including tracking (left to right orientation), letter recognition, and sound-letter relationships. Beginning writing skills will also develop in our play environment.

Mathematics:

Basic attributes of colour, shape and size are learned in a play environment. Sequencing, patterning, spatial concepts, one to one correspondence, number recognition, counting, creating sets of objects, and learning about time (day, night, yesterday tomorrow etc.) can all be taught through the medium of play and in small and large group activities.

Science:

Classroom Science activities will range from mixing primary paint colours to researching animals. The student's interests will be considered when planning Science activities. Science can also be observed as students play at the sand and water table, the block center and at the science display.

Social Studies:

Students will spend time becoming comfortable in the classroom and become familiar with the school environment. Students will also learn about families, babies, homes, pets and friendship. This allows children to learn about themselves and each other and build tolerance and acceptance.

Themes

The above mentioned subject areas will also be integrated into various themes and activities throughout the year. The following is an approximate outline of themes that we will learn about in Nursery:

September	I am Special Colours	February	Parts of my Body Safety
October	Fall Trees Halloween	March	Spring

November	Family Houses	April	Fruits and Vegetables Friendship
December	Holidays Christmas	May	Paper Transportation
January	Winter Clothing	June	Farm Summer

*Alphabet recognition/identification is studied throughout the school year.

Assessment

Your child's development will be assessed using a variety of methods.

- Observation
 - during regular classroom activities
 - during teacher directed activities
 - during large/small group activities
 - during peer/adult interactions
- Interviews
- Self-Evaluations
- Assessment of
 - Their individual portfolios
 - Work samples

How Parents Can Help...

Here is a list of activities you can do with your child which may be done to foster learning.

- Read to your child everyday
- Play games
- Encourage your child to print their first and last names, then the names of other family members.
- Help them develop fine motor skills by tracing, drawing, gluing, finger painting, doing puzzles, folding laundry, tearing up lettuce for salad etc.
- Teach them to say their full name, address and phone number.
- Discuss things you have been doing together. Ask your child to give opinions and make choices.
- Encourage your child to express him/herself in complete sentences.
- Teach common concepts such as on/off, empty/full, top/bottom etc.

- Allow your child to do things independently.

I hope you have found this booklet to be helpful. Please contact me should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. I am looking forward to a wonderful year with you, your child and myself working as a team.

Marianna (Madi) Mandaliti