



St. Mary's Pre-School Curriculum

Pre-school children develop at varied rates and learn through a variety of methods. Each child should be measured at their own pace in regards to the accomplishments they make over a period of time. This curriculum is a guide to our program and our methods. It is not a set program, since each class and child should be instructed according to their own strengths and weaknesses.

The following is an overview of the areas taught throughout the school year.

Literacy Development: enables children to build an understanding of language and literature. It includes listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. These activities help develop skills in areas such as communication, vocabulary, letter recognition and comprehension.

The children will do activities that will enable them to recognize their own names, know letters in their names, as well as **some** of the sounds of the alphabet. The children should be able to name the primary colors, give likes and differences and give words that are opposites and rhyming words. They will also repeat a story in their own words and provide the main idea with details and will be able to tell what comes next and what might happen when listening to a story.

Math Activities: will be taught using hands-on and real-life experiences. They also help children develop awareness of numbers, geometry, patterns, measurements and graphs.

Specific activities will develop recognition of numbers and counting in a sequence. The children will know position, sizing, and quantitative words. They will be able to match numerals to sets, continue and develop their own patterns as well as categorize objects.

Science Activities: offer children many hands-on opportunities for observations, explorations, investigations, making predictions and experimentation.

Art Activities: they will also help reinforce fine motor skills and concept development in areas such as color, shapes and size relationships.

Many different mediums will be used to develop their art creativity such as paints, colors, cutting with scissors, and play dough.



Manipulative Activities: will help the students to improve visual perception, hand-eye coordination, as well as problem solving and social skills.

Music Activities: will promote a child's listening skills, creative expression and social skills. In music children can explore sound, volume, tempo and rhythm.

Fine Motor Activities: help improve small muscle development and hand-eye coordination. Some common items that can be used in developing these skills include puzzles, lacing, pegboards and using crayons.

Gross Motor Skills: give children the opportunity to use their muscles as well as their imaginations while they run, jump, catch and play.

Circle Time: is our group time during which the day's plans and ideas are shared. Circle activities are designed to enrich their social skills and expand their attention span.

Sand and Water Activities: allow children to experiment with textures and the properties of different substances. These activities promote the development of other skills such as math, science and language.

Block Play: will develop many different concepts such as shape and size discrimination, spatial relationships, number skills, balance, organization, cause and effect and classification. Cooperative play skills, problem solving and creativity are also promoted in block play.

