

Seasons of Learning Early Childhood Center

GSRP Preschool Overview



Seasons of Learning
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Class Hours: GSRP Preschool class meets four days per week, Monday through Thursday from 8:00 to 3:00 pm. Two snacks and a lunch is provided for all children in the GSRP classroom on a daily basis. This program is run by the Macomb Intermediate School District and the Michigan Department of Education

Introduction:

Seasons of Learning acknowledges the unique development of each child and provides varied experiences to foster social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth of the child as she/he passes from one developmental stage to another. These experiences are presented through the Creative Curriculum.

Creative Curriculum

To help children succeed is to teach them to be creative, confident thinkers. That means offering children an opportunity for hands-on exploration and discovery that will help build lifelong critical thinking skills and foster confidence. Creative Curriculum encourages and supports every learner and address all the important areas of learning.

Children in Preschool Develop Best When They:

- Are actively involved in hands-on activities
- Engage in both individual and small group activities with peers
- Have extended blocks of time for choosing play activities
- Have a balance of teacher-directed and child-directed activities

Types of Play That Enhances Children's Development:

Dramatic play, listening to books and stories, block play, sensory, music, art, writing, table toys, math and science.

Dramatic Play helps develop:

- Oral language and decision-making skills
- Cooperation and problem solving skills
- Social skills and self-expression
- Imaginative thinking skills and role-playing skills

Listening to books and stories helps develop:

- Vocabulary and comprehension
- Print and book awareness
- Association between written and spoken words
- Letter recognition and associations between letters and sounds
- Listening skills and a love for literature

Sensory Play helps develop:

- Concepts of volume and measurement
- An understanding of cause and effect
- Sensory awareness and eye-hand coordination
- Fine motor skills and problem solving skills
- Sharing and cooperation skills

Block Play develops:

- Math skills and planning skills
- Concepts of shape and size
- Spatial awareness and motor control
- Social interaction and imagination
- Sharing and cooperation skills

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Preschoolers daily take part in activities that promote large and small motor development. Large Motor Activities are encompassed in outdoor play and instructional gym time.

Activities include running, jumping, walking, throwing and catching, balancing, galloping and marching. Preschoolers have the opportunity to manipulate a variety of equipment which includes parachutes, bean bags, scooters, hula hoops, etc. in organized games and other gym activities.

Fine Motor Activities include such things as lacing, stringing beads, drawing, cutting, painting, holding a crayon with thumb and finger, working with play dough and building with table top manipulatives. They will also practice writing their names and all the letters in the alphabet.

FIELD TRIPS

One way to enhance the learning that takes place in preschool is by providing field trips, both on-site and off-site. Field Trips or Guest Presenters are used to expand a given theme.

Guest Presenters often provide expertise on various topics: nurses or doctors, firefighters or police officers, postal officials and those who work in offices or shops.

Off-site field trips include: apple orchards, cider mills, farms, nature centers, parks, the grocery store, the post office, the fire station or police station or bowling alley.

Social skills of preschoolers are fostered with daily activities. Through thematic units, the preschoolers will be coached into self-regulating their emotions and their behaviors. They will develop closer friendships, become more aware of the social world, themselves, our country and holidays.

SCIENCE

The preschoolers use their senses to discover the world that God created. Through hands-on activities, the preschoolers make new realizations about the world in which they live. Through educational themes, observation and experiments, the children learn about weather, seasons, health, plants, animals, senses and magnets.

ART

Preschoolers have the opportunity to work with a variety of media: pencils, crayons, markers, paint, tissue paper, construction paper, scissors, glue, textures, etc. The children are encouraged to create their own unique works of art. Through art the preschoolers will improve their fine motor skills. The focus of art is on the process rather than the product.

MUSIC is incorporated into the preschool day. Preschoolers are given the opportunity to sing, play instruments, listen and move to music.

Music helps develop:

- Rhythm and listening skills
- Balance and coordination
- Gross motor and fine motor skills
- Creativity and self-expression

Art Activities help develop:

- Pre-writing skills and planning skills
- Color and shape recognition
- Concepts of symmetry and sensory awareness
- Creativity and self-expression
- A sense of accomplishment

Table Toys help develop:

- Problem solving skills and fine motor skills
- Oral language and logical reasoning
- Eye-hand coordination and spatial awareness
- Independence and self-help skills

Math Toys help develop:

- Number recognition and counting skills
- One-to-one correspondence and sequencing skills
- Associations between numbers and quantities
- Sorting and classifying skills
- Addition and subtractions skills
- An understanding of shapes and measurement concepts

Science Activities help children learn to:

- Ask questions and gather information
- Make predictions and draw conclusions
- Conduct simple experiments and communicate observations
- Solve problems and think critically
- Use a variety of tools

RELIGION: While we cannot share the good news about Jesus during GSRP classroom hours, 8:00 AM– 3:00 PM, we would like to offer to your family an opportunity for Jesus time before and after GSRP classroom hours. Jesus time will be 7:45 - 8:00am and 3:00 – 3:15pm. Bible stories and Bible songs will be shared during this time. Families may choose whether or not to participate in this extra activity.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Preschoolers are provided with experiences with oral and written languages. Throughout their day, the preschoolers will have the opportunity to participate in both whole group times and center times.

Group Time: Preschoolers are given the opportunity to practice their listening skills and to effectively communicate with teachers and classmates. They also enjoy stories, finger plays and movement songs. They will be introduced to recognizing and writing their names and the alphabet.

Center Time: Preschoolers have the opportunity to enjoy sensory experiences, follow simple directions, dictate experiences and stories to their teacher and express themselves through drawings. Learning opportunities are provided for the children to enhance their ability to gain knowledge of their world and grow.

MATH

Math concepts are taught through daily routines (snack, lining up, calendar, etc.) and small group activities. The children use manipulatives as they participate in hands-on activities that involve number concepts, counting, sorting, numerical recognition to 10, shapes, puzzles, patterning, series recognition, one-to-one correspondence, graphing and spatial concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The preschool classroom environment encourages each child to have a healthy sense of self and a positive self-esteem.