



Salem Lutheran Children Center Preschool Curriculum

Program themes

Each month the children will explore a different theme. The monthly theme will provide opportunities for children to gain understandings in the areas of science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, music, art and physical development.

The themes for the three-year-old program are:

- September - All About Me at School and Home
- October - Fall on the Farm
- November - Sharing and Caring
- December - Holiday Fun
- January - Winter Wonderful
- February - People Who Care
- March - Books, Books, We Love Books
- April - Spring
- May - Mother Nature

Themes for both of the four-year-old program includes:

- September - Myself, My Family, My Home
- October - Autumn Harvest
- November - Thanksgiving; Pilgrims and Native Americans
- December - My Five Senses; Christmas
- January - Winter Wonders
- February - Community Helpers
- March - Dinosaurs
- April - Springing up!
- May - Pets, Farm and Zoo Animals

Curricular goals

The primary goals for the three-year-old program are language and social development. The four-year-old program reinforces the above mentioned goals and begins to focus more on cognitive skills. The following is a list of curricular goals for both age groups. Goals for three-year-olds are listed first, followed by the goals for four-year-olds. Although the goals have been divided into age groups, it is recognized that all children develop at a different pace. Adjustments are made to target goals to each child's specific needs.

Language arts activities are incorporated throughout the program day and are designed to help children:

- Increase vocabulary
- Imitate talk and respond when spoken to
- Speak in sentences containing five to six words
- Use language to express thoughts and needs
- Memorize and recite short nursery rhymes
- Listen to gain understanding
- Listen and respond to a variety of literature
- Identify sounds as the same or different
- Reproduce auditory patterns
- Use books appropriately
- Tell about an event

In addition, activities for four-year-olds promote their ability to:

- Speak in sentences of increasing length and complexity
- Engage in conversation
- Speak using different tenses and some rules of grammar
- Memorize and recite rhymes, finger plays and songs
- Tell real and pretend stories
- After listening to stories, answer questions
- Identify rhymes

- Tell personal information
- Identify letters
- Recognize own name and names of some classmates
- Track text in books

Mathematics activities are also incorporated throughout the day, such as calendar work, taking attendance and describing things in terms of how many, how tall and how long. Mathematics concepts are intentionally addressed during circle time and guided activities, as well, and help children to:

- Match
- Sort
- Count
- Make sets
- Compare objects
- Identify primary colors
- Recognize objects with the same shape
- Tell about shapes

In addition to reviewing the above, activities in the four-year-old class help them to:

- Recognize numbers
- Match quantities with numerals
- Sequence numbers 1 -5
- Recognize two-dimensional shapes
- Identify primary and secondary colors
- Classify
- Extend simple patterns
- Demonstrate an understanding of positional words

Science and social studies topics are explored during circle time and are designed to help both three- and four-year old children:

- Acquire information about a variety of topics
- Demonstrate curiosity by asking questions
- Investigate and find out what happens
- Use prior knowledge to make predictions (guesses)
- Explore the world about them
- Observe and describe

Social and emotional skills are necessary in order to function successfully in life. By observing children as they engage in whole group, small group and individual activities, adults in both programs provide encouragement, reinforcement and intervention as needed to promote each child's ability to:

- Interact positively with people of different ages, genders
And backgrounds
- Work individually or as part of a group
- Share turns and materials
- Use materials in appropriate ways
- Follow rules
- Participate in a variety of activities
- Try new things
- Make choices and accept consequences
- Engage in self-care
- Accept responsibility for his/her actions
- Demonstrate respect for others
- Recognize that everyone makes mistakes

Fine arts (art, music and/or drama) activities are provided daily and help children to:

- Express themselves in a variety of ways
- Experiment with different materials to create works of art
- Use a variety of tools when working with paints, play dough, and Paper
- Respond to beat and tempo of musical selections through Movement
- Use musical instruments
- Sing simple songs
- Perform or respond in front of a group
- Explore the creative process

Motor activities are designed to help children further refine their ability to use both small and large muscles. Each day children will have opportunities for gross motor activities - particularly on the playground - and fine motor activities which will help children to:

- Zip and button
- Use art implements
- Use eating utensils
- Connect and take apart constructing toys
- Run, jump and hop
- Maintain balance when moving and when stationary
- Participate in a variety of active games

Four-year-olds will also participate in activities which will help them to:

- Use writing implements
- Print their name
- Use scissors with control
- Color within a defined space
- Draw recognizable pictures

