

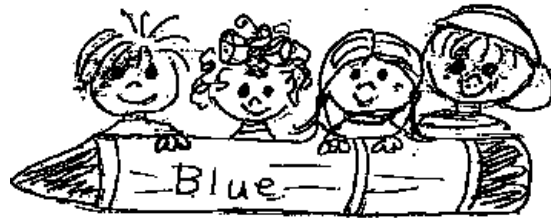
St. Luke Preschool Three Year Old Program

The three-year old classroom is a caring and positive atmosphere in which we strive to create a warm and happy place for preschoolers to learn. As we bridge the gap from home to school, we guide the children to continued good self - image while building social skills in a school setting.

Throughout the year we learn to work and play cooperatively, to follow instructions, to get along with each other, to respect and obey the teacher, to wait patiently for our turn and to become a little more self-reliant. Learning to adjust socially and emotionally is very necessary before a child is ready for more "academic" instruction.

One of the basic indications of a child's readiness for more formal instruction is his/her muscular coordination, particularly coordination of eye and finger muscles. We are constantly working and developing this through finger plays, games, music, rhythms and a variety of other activities.

And, yes, we DO play a lot. But please remember, what looks like play to you is really valuable learning experience for our children. During play time, we are meeting new friends, looking at books, sharing, pouring and measuring sand, having creative art experiences, learning to share adults' attention, learning needed social skills, becoming independent, developing language and the list could go on and on. Playing can be very hard work!



Objectives for Three Year Old Program

Social Skills - Playing with other children

1. Having experiences in a child group setting vs. an adult setting
2. Having cooperative play experiences
3. Learning social skills needed to play games and make friends
4. Acting appropriately with adults
5. Learning to respect and listen to an adult (other than parents)
6. Learning to share adults' attention

Fine Motor Skills - Cutting, drawing, dressing, play dough

1. Having creative arts experiences; using messy arts materials
2. Pouring and measuring at the sand/water table
3. Playing dress-up
4. Building with blocks
5. Using manipulatives

Gross Motor Skills - Climbing, running, balancing, jumping

1. Lots of outdoor and playground fun!
2. Rhythm and movement

Developing and Expanding Language Abilities - Understanding what is being said and understood

1. "Reading" books
2. Learning songs
3. Playing and interacting with peers, learned friend's names
4. Following directions
5. Participating in circle time and group discussions

Readiness Skills

1. Naming/using colors
2. Recognizing shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle)
3. Differentiating numbers and letters
4. Increasing attention span
5. Learning days of the week and months of the year

Fostering Independence

1. Picking up toys and putting supplies in proper place
2. Begin using the bathroom and washing hands by themselves
3. Pulling on jacket by themselves