

## FOUR YEAR OLD PROGRAM

Our classroom is a child-centered place guided by an educated and experienced teacher to foster happy, caring and independent children. We strive to build trust with each child so that he/she feels comfortable in the classrooms environment and beyond.

The children's first task is to learn to say goodbye at the door and come into the room happy. The teacher always helps with this transition time. Being able to leave the parent and come into the classroom easily builds self-esteem and fosters independence. Independence is a necessary skill for academic achievement.

During the first half of the year, children learn how to respect their classmates and teachers, to work independently to solve a problem and verbalize their needs and wants. Children learn to wait for their turn to speak and also learn to listen at the appropriate times. Children are encouraged to be independent by putting on and taking off their own jackets, taking their art projects to their cubbies and taking care of their bathroom needs. Children also begin to visually recognize the names of their classmates. Each day we present a craft to complement a theme incorporating reading readiness skills and to create a feeling of success when the project is complete!

During the school year, children begin to work on the alphabet. Children explore a letter of the alphabet through art projects and circle time. Children discuss the sounds that the different letters make and explore the letters in three-dimensional ways.

Our four-year old program is positive, creative, relational, flexible and individualized. It includes a mixture of dramatic play, manipulative games, stories, singing, field trips, cooking experiences and many special activities, which allow the child to interact with the world.

### FOUR YEAR OLD PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

#### SOCIAL SKILLS

- Cooperative play with classmates.
- Separate easily from parents.
- Establish trust and rapport with teachers.
- Verbalize needs.
- Listen and follow directions.
- Share with classmates.
- Follow classroom rules.
- Develop ability to wait for turn.
- Listen at appropriate times.
- Participate in group playtime and clean-up time.
- Show consideration for the feelings of others.
- Understand that there are consequences, both positive and negative for their actions.
- Understand warnings of physical danger and respect such warnings for safety of self and others.



### **FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE**

- Enter classroom without tears.
- Hang up coat, back pack and put up lunch box, etc., without help.
- Use bathroom and wash hands without help.
- Wipe nose and dispose of tissue.
- Serve self at family-style snack and clean up when finished.
- Put on coat.
- Use all arts and crafts materials appropriately.
- Be able to think of ways to solve a problem.
- Ask for help appropriately.

### **READINESS SKILLS**

- Recognize alphabet letters.
- Recognize shapes (triangle, rectangle, circle, oval and square).
- Recognize the numerals and count to ten.
- Recognize own name and names of classmates, both orally and written.
- Understand calendar, weather chart and relationship to actual weather outdoors
- Follow 2 - 3 step verbal directions.
- Actively listen to a story and answer questions about it.
- Be able to independently write his/her own name.
- Be able to tell left hand from right.
- Show an interest in learning new things.
- Be proud of progress and achievements.
- Remember and reflect on things in the past.
- Basic computer skills.

### **DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING LANGUAGE ABILITIES**

- Be able to verbalize the meaning of simple words (such as bicycle, apple, ball, hammer, etc.)
- Discriminate material characteristics of objects (i.e., table of wood).
- Be able to speak in full sentences.
- Understand relational modifiers (i.e. over, under, above, below).
- Learn songs and finger plays.
- Participate in show-and-tell using a normal voice and articulate clearly.
- "Read" books.

### **FINE MOTOR SKILLS**

- Use scissors with simple patterns.
- Draw a circle, a straight line and a square.
- Draw a stick figure.
- Use a knife to spread jam or butter.
- Hold a pencil in fist grasp.
- Paint with large paintbrush at easel.
- Hold paint brush in adult manner.

### **GROSS MOTOR SKILLS**

- Catch a ball or beanbag.
- Hop on one foot.
- Use playground equipment with proper skills.
- Jump over objects.
- Alternate feet going down stairs.
- Rhythm movement through music.