

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The SFCS preschool educational program is based on the philosophy that God created each child with unique differences. Because of these differences, each child will possess varying degrees of developmental readiness. Every child will go through a cycle of developmental stages but at a rate and pattern of growth particular to himself, especially in the early years.

Each aspect of development - physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual - relies on and supports the others. We appreciate and anticipate that readiness for any task has its roots in the biological and maturational make-up of the child. Therefore, we do not try to produce, speed up, or ignore maturational readiness.

Using a multi-sensory approach in our learning environment, it is our goal that each child will develop his own unique God-given personality, have an awareness of his place in the world around him, and develop an appreciation for his environment. It is our desire to provide opportunities for the whole child to develop spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually through an interactive environment. Our approach is grounded in sound child development theory and appropriate practices.

Themes are used to introduce information, and learning takes place as a child explores and manipulates real objects and events. Pre-Kindergarten learning activities are planned to developmentally impact the following domains:

Language	Science	Creative Arts
Literacy	Social/Emotional	Approaches to Learning
Mathematics	Physical/Health	Bible

The program is designed to provide age appropriate development in the following skills:

Language	Safety	Group Skills
Large Motor	Auditory memory	Problem Solving
Fine Motor	Life Skills	Math Skills

Theme designed curriculum allows the teacher to integrate language, writing, listening, speaking, math, science, art, music, dramatic play, and culture into activities that are meaningful and appropriate.

Enrichment Activities Include:

Field Trips	Service Projects	Dramatic Play
Guests	Grandparents' Day	Finger Plays
Spanish	Sign Language	Music/Movement
Book Fair	Christmas Program	
Library	Art	

Classroom Centers Include:

Art	Manipulative	Language/Reading
Science	Dramatic Play	Math
Computer	Block/Building	

Pre-Kindergarten Four -Instructional Goals

Christian Character Development:

- Participates in prayer
- Learns Bible verses and Bible characters
- Participates in chapel by reciting pledges
- Learns to show empathy and concern for others
- Learns to apply Bible lessons to daily situations

Social/Emotional Development:

- Learns to play and share cooperatively with classmates
- Participates in group activities
- Learns to attend to personal needs
- Learns to accept responsibility for his/her actions
- Learns to accept limits and respect teacher's authority
- Learns to adjust to transitional times
- Learns to stay on task to completion
- Learns to demonstrate appropriate self-control
- Learns to clean up after self
- Works independently when necessary
- Expresses pride in accomplishments
- Shares family experiences and/or traditions
- Speaks in sentences of more than 5 words

Motor Skills Development:

- Can use scissors correctly—how to hold and how to cut a straight line
- Learns how to manipulate small objects into finished projects, such as puzzles, art work, and peg board
- Holds pencil or crayon correctly
- Uses markers, crayons, and brushes appropriately
- Uses glue with control
- Builds with blocks
- Assembles puzzles
- Laces through holes
- Maintains balance when hopping on one foot
- Can alternate feet when climbing up/down stairs
- Washes hands properly
- Catches a playground ball
- Draws a face
- Uses bathroom independently

Approaches to Learning Domain:

- Shows initiative and curiosity while choosing and participating in a variety of activities
- Attends to a single task for an increasing amount of time
- Offers alternate solutions to a problem
- Sets personal goals and follows through

Language Development:

- Speaks clearly enough to be understood
- Follows simple directions
- Participates in circle discussions
- Recalls stories, songs, and finger plays
- Recognizes his/her own name in print
- Identifies all the letters in his/her own name
- Identifies the upper-case and lower-case letters
- Identifies the beginning letter sounds
- Recites the pledges to the American Flag, Christian Flag, and Bible
- Matches spoken words that begin with the same sound
- Demonstrates understanding of rhyming words
- Names the first letter of printed words
- Sorts letters from other symbols
- Recognizes a group of letters as a word
- Predicts what will happen next in a story
- Claps or taps for each syllable of a word

Creative Arts:

- Exposure to structured activities and games
- Exposure to Spanish
- Exposure to sign language
- Moves to music
- Begins to create representational drawings
- Engages in role play
- Expresses creativity through a variety of art experiences
- Memorizes songs

Mathematics:

- Names and matches geometric shapes
- Sorts and names colors
- Counts by rote
- Sorts objects by size, color and shape
- Counts orally from 1-31 (days of the month)
- Names numerals in print (1-10)
- Uses one-to-one correspondence when counting
- Matches numerals to sets
- Combines and separates sets of objects
- Compares sets of items
- Demonstrates understanding of positional concepts
- Identifies, copies, and extends simple patterns