

4-Year-Old



Pre-K 4 • Curriculum Program for Four Year Olds

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Academic Program



Program Description

The pre-kindergarten program is multi-sensory (uses all the senses to input information in the brain,) developmental (concepts and skills introduced are appropriate for the student's age and ability,) and sequential (one skill or concept builds upon another.)

Thematic Approach

The program introduces concepts and skills in and around a theme. The theme adds interest and engages the child in the learning process.

Philosophy

Each child is unique. Every child is a learner. Learning is pleasurable. Human beings are programmed to learn in order to survive. Learning is fun. Learning through play is the work of childhood.

Self-confidence and self-esteem are a natural result of competence. The goal of the program is to provide each child with multiple opportunities to develop competence in all areas.

Success Begets Success

Activities are structured to provide many successful experiences everyday. Lots of praise and positive reinforcement is used.

Religion/Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Image of God Series, published by Ignatius Press. It combines scriptural lessons with developmentally appropriate art and craft projects and other hands on activities.

Text

“Who Am I” from Image of God, published by Ignatius Press

Aim

To give the pre-kindergarten students a knowledge of God the Father, the life of our Savior, the Blessed Mother, and the Saints. There is a special emphasis on God’s love for us. The children will learn the sign of the cross and several traditional Catholic prayers.

Program Structure

The program is divided into four specific areas: language arts, concept, craft and writing, and motor. The children move through each area every day. As they move through each area the new concept being introduced is reinforced in a different sensory way.

Language Arts

Language Arts

The language arts room is where children explore language through flannel board stories, chalk talks, finger plays, creative drama, puppet play, library stories, and songs. Weekly thematic topics are discussed and beginning reading skills are taught.

Language Arts Continued...

Themes rotate between social science and science. Themes are developed in the language arts room through library stories, songs, finger plays, chalk talks, and teaching pictures.

Reading skills include: phonics, sequencing, rhyming, alphabet recognition, likenesses and differences, new enriched vocabulary, memory training, and listening skills.

Vocabulary

Pre-k students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new words in writing assignments

Concept

The concept room is a room full of hands-on manipulatives that teach or reinforce every part of the curriculum. The calendar, weather chart, shapes, and numbers are introduced in the concept room.

After the lesson of the day, the children are free to choose any of the self-correcting and self-pacing materials to work (play) with. The children work individually on rug mats while the teacher works with them on a one to one basis.

The children are responsible for performing the Montessori like activity correctly and returning it to its proper place on the shelf in good order. This teaches the children to respect the materials and to be considerate of one another. Simple science experiments using the light table or water (sensory) table are done in this room. Live egg hatching or butterfly life cycle take place in the Spring.

Craft and Writing

Our craft and writing room is where the children do simple readiness papers, name printing, cutting and pasting, drawing, finger and tempera painting, alphabet and numeral printing, and a wide variety of craft projects. The children are also served an additive and preservative free nutritious snack and practice their table manners in this room.

Motor

Our motor room is where the children work to increase skills in large muscle control, eye-hand coordination, balance, body parts, and many other motor skills. In nice weather the activities will be held outside and free time is given whether inside or outside.

In all areas we teach or review the alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes, phonics, and easy reading words. Each group reviews daily what they have learned each week.

Year End Expectations

Craft and Writing

- † Second stage of art
- † Write own name (first and last name)
- † Alphabet letters to Aa - Zz
- † Numbers to 20
- † Follow directions
- † Cutting skills

Language Arts

- † Confidence to respond alone and perform alone in front of peers
- † Identify sounds of consonants
- † Identify alphabet and numerals
- † Gross motor control - body coordination
- † Enlarge experiential background with an enriched vocabulary
- † Reading Stories 1-15
- † Memory - up to seven symbols (visual and auditory)

Concept

- † Recognition of alphabet to Zz
- † Recognition of numerals and number concepts 1-20
- † Readiness skills - likeness, differences, and opposites
- † Size perception - visual memory
- † Eye-hand coordination-hole punching, pouring
- † Small muscle control
- † Ability to classify and seriate
- † Place value
- † Rote counting to 100
- † Simple addition and subtraction

Motor Development

- † Bean bag
- † Right and left
- † Balance - one foot and on balance beam
- † Parachute
- † Ball handling - catch and throw

General Information

Fieldtrips

The children will go on one fieldtrip each year. Parents are welcome to attend.

Report Cards

The children will receive their report cards in June.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for early February. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Home Support

For children to achieve enrichment it is necessary to use lots of praise and positive reinforcement. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for looking at books
- † Discourage or prohibit TV on school nights
- † Read to your child daily
- † Listen to your child retell stories
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (10 hours minimum for 4 years old)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school
- † Visit libraries and museums
- † Play listening and memory games
- † Do a lot of counting
- † Use a rich vocabulary when talking with your child

