

The Good Shepherd School Curriculum

Goals Kindergarten

Respect and responsibility are the foundation of the Good Shepherd curriculum. Caring for others, cooperation, responsibility, independence and respect for others have been established as our core values. We strive to develop character in all of our students by incorporating these values into our daily life and into our curriculum.

I. To foster the development of a positive self-concept and a positive attitude toward school, the children will:

- show pride in accomplishments and products created.
- exhibit confidence in their own abilities.
- acquire developmentally appropriate readiness skills.

II. To nurture independence and self-control, encouraging an increased awareness of the relationship between freedom and responsibility, the children will:

- use appropriate expressions of positive and negative feelings.
- work cooperatively within a daily routine and follow and anticipate a daily schedule.
- expand attention skills and the ability to follow multi-step directions.
- recognize, don, snap, button and zip their own clothing.
- show responsibility for personal possessions, including “homework” and newsletters.
- maintain interest in a play activity without adult encouragement.
- use materials and equipment appropriately.
- ask for assistance when necessary.

III. To guide the development of social skills in a caring and nurturing atmosphere, the children will:

- participate in group and individual experiences and discussions.
- use appropriate social skills, including “please,” “thank you,” “let’s,” “I’m sorry” and “excuse me.”
- role play and “pretend” to discover successful interactions.
- develop an awareness of our world around us and our responsibility to it.
- play cooperatively, interact with peers, take turns and listen while others are speaking.
- accept and respect individual differences and the feelings and needs of others.
- develop the ability to lead and to follow.
- respond positively to guidance and direction.

IV. To inspire a developmentally appropriate understanding of God and His love, the children will:

- participate in a weekly chapel service that includes prayers, stories, songs and seasonal activities.
- learn prayers to be said before snack and lunch.
- participate in a Christmas service that expresses the importance of the birth of Jesus.
- praise God through song, prayer and stories.

V. To encourage children to think, reason, question and experiment, developing problem-solving skills and the ability to think critically, the children will:

- listen critically to literature and poetry, laying the foundation for a love of books, learning and reading.
- participate in scientific “hands-on” experiences that will arouse and expand natural curiosities.
- detect patterns and compare lengths, sizes, numbers and amounts.
- distinguish between fantasy and reality.
- anticipate the consequences of simple actions.
- use imagination to explore in independent and teacher-directed activities.
- understand and anticipate humor, experimenting with language, movements and specific situations.

VI. To further language development, enhancing receptive and expressive language and vocabulary, the children will:

- participate in small and large group discussions.
- recall and describe events and stories.
- listen to, participate in and repeat finger plays, songs, poems and literature.
- speak clearly, articulate and use complete sentences and proper pronouns.
- incorporate verbal directions into play activities.
- be introduced to a wide range of words in meaningful context.
- use language to stimulate judgment, comparisons and evaluations.
- learn their addresses, phone numbers and birthdates.
- modulate their voices for indoor and outdoor activities.

VII. To develop, refine and strengthen small motor and large motor skills:

A. Fine Motor: The children will improve their awareness of left/right progression,

- finger manipulation and eye-hand coordination by:
- rolling, squeezing, poking and molding play dough.
- finger painting and easel painting.
- coloring within the lines, copying and tracing.
- stringing beads and imitating finger plays.
- manipulating puzzles, blocks, toys and clothing.
- proficiently handling scissors, crayons, markers and brushes.
- establishing left or right dominance.
- printing the letters of the alphabet and the numbers to 20.

B. Gross Motor: The children will strengthen muscles and improve balance and coordination by:

- safely utilizing indoor and outdoor play equipment.
- participating in a weekly Creative Movement class and a soccer class.
- practice the integration of muscles and rhythm.
- playing games requiring movement, balance and coordination.
- refining their ability to run, hop, skip, crawl, jump, gallop, tip-toe, kick a ball, balance, throw and ride.

VIII. To develop sound health, safety and nutritional practices, the children will:

- learn about hazards created by poisons, water, fire, traffic and strangers.
- clean spills and put away materials with direction.
- practice a healthy diet, adequate exercise and rest, cleanliness and care of teeth.

IX. To foster individual creative expression and appreciation, artistic and musical, the children will:

- participate in weekly art and music classes.
- be provided with materials that will free them to express feelings and responses that may be difficult to verbalize.
- respond to music by listening, singing, moving, playing, clapping and creating, increasing the awareness of melody, rhythm and tempo
- begin to appreciate masterpieces of the art world by discussing, imitating, copying and imagining.
- dramatize “action songs,” poetry and stories.
- experiment with primary and secondary colors and a variety of artistic textures and tools.
- contribute original ideas to classroom activities and discussions.
- exhibit flexibility in play and in the creation of products.
- participate in Thanksgiving, Christmas and spring pageants

X. Reading, pre-reading, mathematics, social studies and science are presented to Good Shepherd children within a developmentally appropriate framework. To develop the skills needed for literacy and to give the children a solid foundation for the more structured academics of elementary school, proficiency is promoted in the following areas:

Reading: The children learn the alphabet and beginning letter sounds, compound words, and common rhymes, syllables and onsets. They practice opposites, listening and memorization skills, basic sequencing, simple classification, word recognition and creative writing. They learn how to follow directions, form letters, recognize patterns and predict outcomes. Phonemic awareness and visual and auditory discrimination are important components of the program. An equal emphasis is given to an appreciation for literature and poetry and a love of books.

Math: The children are provided with concrete experiences to master shape recognition, number recognition, sequencing, counting to 20, ordination, printing numbers and the calendar. They experiment with patterns, measurement, spatial concepts, size, sets, weight, time, money, temperature, and simple addition and subtraction. They compare and contrast, match, add, subtract, graph and cook.

Spanish: Using the Spanish language, children sing and play games, greet one another, and use their good manners. They learn to count, name colors, and identify animals in Spanish as well.

Science: The children will learn to observe, experiment and predict using their senses indoors and out. They learn and review basic facts about plants, animals, weather, and the seasons.

Social Studies: The children continue to learn about themselves and their feelings. They explore the family, family roles, peers, the community around them. They learn to understand and respect themselves in relation to others.

Daily Schedule	Units
Free Play/Individualized Activities	Backyard Friends
Circle Time	Friendship
Directed Activity/Free Play	The Body
Outdoor Play	Earth and Moon
Snack	Plants and Seeds
Directed Activity	Seasons, Holidays and Customs
Special	Leo Lionni
	Mrs. Wishy Washy
	Littleville
	Polar Animals

Specials

Weekly: Music
Chapel
Creative Movement

Daily: Soccer
Playground