

Preschool Curriculum

Laurel Academy

Social Skills

Children are encouraged to develop and demonstrate consideration for others, take turns, share classroom equipment, and communicate and express personal feelings using words.

Self-Care Skills

While assistance is given as needed, preschoolers are encouraged to develop independence in dressing, eating, washing of hands at appropriate times, tidying-up after themselves, and the use of the washroom.

Language Skills

Good language skills permit children to express their needs and to understand more about their world. In order to encourage the development of language in preschoolers, the teacher engages the children in discussions, and activities that introduce them to new words, and reads to the class each day. Additionally, the teachers encourage children to express themselves clearly during group and individual interactions with the children, and they offer routine opportunities (i.e. show & tell) for each child to speak in front of a group.

Building Reading Skills

Every day, the teacher works one-on-one with each child developing phonemic awareness and building early reading skills. At first, preschoolers are introduced to one letter of the alphabet and its basic sound. Once mastered, the child is taught another letter and its sound, and so on. Using Laurel's own simplified and individualized systematic phonics approach to reading, our youngest students are often reading short words and sentences within their first year at Laurel. A record of the child's daily reading is sent home for the purpose of informing parents about their child's progress and so that parents may practice at home the skills their child has learned at school, if they wish to do so.

Number Skills

Through hands-on activities and the use of manipulatives, children learn to count and to understand quantity. At the same time, they are taught the associated number symbols. Once this is mastered, they move on to simple addition and then subtraction problems.

Problem-Solving

Children's logical and problem-solving abilities are developed through puzzles and games, and handout activities involving patterns, numbers and spatial skills. Cause and effect and ordering of events are some of the concepts introduced to the children.

Gross-Motor Skills

Children participate in games and activities which improve their balance, coordination, and dexterity, while developing the skills which will prepare them for later participation in physical games and sports, e.g. kicking, catching and throwing a ball, running and jumping, and learning to follow rules in a simple game.

Science / Social Studies

One of the main goals of the preschool program is to increase the children's understanding and awareness of the world around them. The children learn about themes, which may include their community and community helpers, forest life, the seasons, transportation, and the weather.

Music

Preschoolers develop an appreciation for music through songs and chants. They use rhythm instruments, and listen and move to music.

Art

Preschoolers learn about colour and texture, and they develop their fine motor skills through work with paints, finger paints, creative clay, scissors, crayons, and pastels.

LAUREL ACADEMY

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