



Preschool and Kindergarten

Preschool Program

Small Blessings, Inc runs a full Preschool and Kindergarten Program for children between the ages of 3 and 6 years. We provide non-competitive, flexible, and caring classrooms. Children respect their environment through interactions with materials, peers, and adults, gaining self-esteem and independence to participate in a variety of activities and situations. Children enter our classrooms with different levels of development so a wide variety of age-appropriate opportunities are provided to encourage each stage of development. The children and teachers establish solid relationships with their teachers through the years and the learning maintains continuity each year.

Emergent Curriculum

Throughout the year, our curriculum will be focused and directed by the theme of "Similarities and Differences." Children will engage in project work that is an in-depth investigation of a particular topic, deliberately focused on finding answers to questions about a topic posed by the children, the teacher, or the teacher working with the children. The choice of topics to study will emerge throughout the year and will be determined in several ways. Topics may emerge directly from teacher's observations of children's spontaneous play and exploration. Project ideas may also come from academic curiosity on the part of the children, social concern of the teacher, or serendipitous events that raise questions to be answered. Ideally, topics selected can be investigated directly by the children in their immediate environment. Project work is in support of the NAEYC's (National Association for the Education of Young Children) position that information must be meaningful to the child in order for it to be remembered and truly learned.

Goals

The long term goals cover the five areas given below. Each child is continuously observed and weekly studies are developed based on these observations to meet the children where they are, and challenge them to reach higher, but not too high that they are discouraged.

Self Sufficiency and Independence

Through guidance and modeling we aim to assist children to develop skills to be more independent and develop self confidence. These self-help skills include cleaning up toys, hand washing, encouraging effective communication, recognizing belongings, caring for a class pet, participating in toilet training when necessary, dressing, and more.

Social/Emotional Development

The children are involved in positive experiences with adults and their peers. Through interaction children develop positive attitudes towards themselves, their families, teachers, peers, and the community as a whole. Children are provided with opportunities to learn about their emotions and about empathy for others. They are given the opportunities to learn how to express themselves appropriately and learn self-discipline.

Physical Development

Physical development is enhanced through motor activities both indoors and outdoors. These varied activities develop large muscles and small muscles, fostering correct growth, and spatial awareness.

Cognitive Development

Children are given the opportunity to explore and experiment with a variety of resources. Logical and symbolic thinking, learning and problem solving skills are developed through the use of open questioning. Skills are developed in different areas of the room i.e.: reading area, drawing area, construction area, dramatic play, art/craft experiences, and motor activities.

Language Development

We aim to provide children with good language models which encourages them to speak and listen. The home language of the child is openly encouraged. Language development is fostered through: group discussion, conversations between adults and peers, following directions, asking questions, understanding the purpose of writing, alphabet knowledge, writing, story telling, reading, and music.