

Pre-school Children

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Our educational program fosters the children's development in alignment with the requirements of the State of Illinois Early Learning Standards, in the domains of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Development and Health, Fine Arts, English Language Learner Home Language Development (The "English Language Learner Home Language Development" learning area has replaced the previous terminology of "Foreign Language" learning area), and Social/Emotional Development, as follows:

A. Language Arts

- Understand the meaning of words, exposing the child to parallel vocabulary in a second language
- Use single phrases containing a noun and a verb.
- Deliver a simple message.
- Recognize and name the letters of the alphabet.
- Read simple signs in two languages.
- Print some letters.

B. Mathematics

- Teachers initiate discussions of similarities and differences
- Children are given tasks to sort objects by size, shape or color
- Teachers and children discuss time concepts such as past, present, or future events
- Children use comparative words to describe number, size, shape, weight, and color

C. Science

- Investigate and categorize living things in the environment.
- Show an awareness of changes that occur in themselves and their environment.
- Describe and compare basic needs of living things.
- Describe the effects of forces in nature (e.g., wind, gravity and magnetism).
- Participates in recycling in their environment.
- Make comparisons among objects that have been observed.
- Use common weather-related vocabulary (e.g., rainy, snowy, sunny, windy).
- Identify basic concepts associated with night/day and seasons.

D. Social Studies

- Recognize the reasons for rules.
- Participates in voting as a way of making choices.
- Develop an awareness of roles of leaders in their environment.
- Identify community workers and the services they provide.
- Begin to understand the use of trade to obtain goods and services.
- Compare characteristics of culture as reflected in language, literature, the arts, traditions and institutions
- Recognize similarities and differences in people.
- Understand that each of us belongs to a family and recognize that families vary.

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E. Physical Development and Health

- Children hold markers, crayons, and other objects using fine motor skills to make specific strokes or figures
- Children are given pathways and obstacles to pedal and steer around on tricycles on the outdoor playground
- Children are given reminders about self-help skills, such as clean-up time and hand-washing
- Children create and are taught to follow classroom rules, with reminders

F. Fine Arts

- Dance: Participate in dance activities.
- Describe self by using several basic characteristics.
- Drama: Participate in drama activities.
- Music: Participate in music activities.
- Visual Arts: Participate in the visual arts.
- Use creative arts as an avenue for self-expression.
- Children are given time to dance to music of various cultures
- Children are encouraged to use their imaginations in drawing shapes, letters, and other symbols
- Children retell stories they have heard and act out main events of familiar stories; stories are told in both English and the home language.

G. English Language Learner Home Language Development

- Use the target language to communicate within and beyond the classroom setting.
- Use the target language to make connections and reinforce knowledge and skills across academic, vocational and technical disciplines.
- Maintain the native language for use in a variety of purposes.
- Use and maintain the native language in order to build upon and develop transferable language and literacy skills.

H. Social/Emotional Development

- Children choose and become involved in one activity out of several options
- Children are encouraged to identify and label their feelings, and Use appropriate communication skills when expressing needs, wants and feelings.
- Children take on pretend roles and situations in the classroom
- Begin to understand and follow rules.
- Manage transitions and begin to adapt to changes in routine.
- Show empathy and caring for others.
- Show some initiative and independence in actions.
- Engage in cooperative group play.
- Begin to share materials and experiences and take turns.
- Respect the rights of self and others.
- Develop relationships with children and adults.