



## Pre-K Kids Learning Center Inc.

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### Curriculum Statement

The curriculum statement listed here is overview and statement about learners applies to all of our programs. Pre-K Kids Learning Center Inc. serves families who work or live in New Castle and surrounding area. Our families represent the economic and social diversity of our community.

#### Our Philosophy

Through our curriculum, as a *teaching* daycare, Pre-K Kids Learning Center not only cares for the basic needs and security of your child, but strives to form a foundation of learning. The center acts on the growing understanding that early childhood education has an enduring, positive, and profound impact upon a child later in life. When children in their earliest years are exposed to healthy social contacts, varying learning experiences, and skillful caregivers, they are well inclined to succeed in their overall growth and development. Learning Programs combine structured and independent activities, large and small-group interaction, and educational curricula that are reviewed regularly for effectiveness. Each child is valued as an individual with unique abilities and interests and is presented with opportunities to learn in an environment that builds a good self-esteem.

Pre-K Kids Learning Center faculty is well prepared to work hand-in-hand with parents, and guardians to ensure a great beginning to your child's educational future.

#### Children Goals

We believe that young children best learn by guided exploration through play with some direct instruction. Therefore, our schedule reflects a balance of exploratory learning, small group work, and some large group sessions. Teachers also ask for the children's input in the selection of themes and activities and build off of their interests in planning and classroom activities.

Goals for individual children are defined throughout the year. The teachers begin by observing and assessing each child's development and then include targets and activities for the individuals in their lesson plans. This happens on a regular basis and is reported to parents at least two times a year or as needed.

#### Curriculum Resources

Our curriculum we have adopted is *Creative Curriculum*, a developmentally appropriate support for active learning and promoting children's progress in all developmental areas. Creative Curriculum is a research-based, and research-proven curriculum resources help every early childhood program create a high-quality learning environment that enables every child to become a creative, confident thinker.

#### Teaching Strategies

Classes select a theme or study to explore together as each child works on specific skills. Teachers help the children learn by using discovery centers, defined in the curriculum and through best practices in the field, that are designed to allow children to learn while they play and explore. Each classroom has enough materials for all children to actively engage in their environment. These materials are selected to meet quality standards for early childhood programs.

Materials and some defined activities are added to centers on a regular basis. Teachers also prepare some small group instruction, particularly around language, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Large group activities primarily happen during a short morning circle time and music.

While children explore, the teacher's guide the learning through open-ended questions and extension activities. Finally, learning takes place during classroom routines as children learn self-regulatory and social skills.

### **Learning Standards**

We have aligned our curriculum to Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards. To ensure that the curriculum is properly used to reflect learning from across the standards, teachers are required to indicate the learning standards during the lesson plan process.

#### **Infant Program (2-12 months)**

Your baby receives individual attention, affection, respect, and love. This is a crucial first step in the development of positive self-concepts and feelings of self-worth.

Pre-K Kids Learning Center provides developmental care well beyond the routine custodial care that addresses the infant's basic needs such as being fed, changed, and kept clean and safe. Developmental care can address all of these needs as well as take care of the infant's need to be held, loved, and talked to. They are also stimulated through books and toys to look and listen to, floor play, finger play, as well as constantly be assisted in their own independent actions.

Developmental care is care that helps infants develop both their minds and bodies in a safe and healthy environment. The infant care program at Pre-K Kids Learning Center provides learning in a conscious way, balancing open or free experiences with organized ones. Experiences include:

- Activities for listening and talking
- Physical development
- Activities to stimulate the five senses
- Learning from the world around them

The group environment of the daycare center provides peer socialization for your infant. Specialized activities also add a special touch.

At Pre-K Kids Learning Center, your baby's needs are handled promptly, feelings are accepted, and any problems are managed with understanding. The daily schedule is used only as a guide. The day revolves around each baby's individual schedule - including a policy of feeding infants on demand, unless a parent requests the use of an established feeding schedule.

#### **Toddler Program (13-24 Months are considered Young Toddlers) (25-36 Months are considered Older Toddlers)**

Toddlers learn with their whole bodies, they solve problems on a physical level... "Me do it" shows their drive for independence.

Our goal for our toddlers is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where children can feel secure and loved. In the beginning stages of learning, toddlers are full of interest and curiosity with the world around them. Every day is full of new challenges and exciting discoveries.

We believe in encouraging the toddlers' interests and praising their efforts; this is the first building block in helping children develop independence and a strong sense of self-esteem and self-worth. We try to channel their energy and exuberance into learning activities that help them get along with others as they form the first friendships. Our day consists of many activities, both structured and unstructured. Lessons are designed to stimulate your child, according to their age and abilities. We plan our activities around the following developmental areas:

- Cognitive

- Language
- Gross and fine motor skills
- Creativity through art, music, and dramatic play
- Creative Arts
- STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math - such as using toys and other fun objects to learn the difference between "big" and "little," finger play and songs that incorporate numbers, and counting objects in the room or on our craft projects.
- Social studies - such as group time, learning the names of teachers and friends, and spending time with a special friend while doing a project.

Learning centers for art, dramatic play, and tools are also an enjoyable part of your child's day. During this time, your child is engaged in a small group of one or two children. This approach allows your child to express his or her own creativity while interacting with others.

Most of your child's day is spent socializing through play with the other children. Part of the play will be structured - such as marching around the room to music, while other times will be spent doing activities your child chooses. During circle time, the children come together as a group for shared activities such as Calendar and Weather, a review about class rules and consequences, and themed activities. Our toddlers take an afternoon nap.

### **Pre-School Program (37 months to Kindergarten)**

For the early three year old, it's a life of fantasy and make-believe: where a stuffed animal comes to life during play.... But life is not always magical for the older three year old, who can be at the same time insecure and self-willed. What was a happy and serene world becomes one of anxious times that require a great deal of patience, understanding, and reinforcement of values.

Lively and adventurous four year olds may seem to be quite secure and comfortable with themselves: boasting, bragging, and exaggerating.... But emotions can also be uncertain, with laughter and tears following each other in quick succession.

The main goal of Pre-K Kids Learning Center program is to prepare your child for Kindergarten. Each child learns at a different pace and in a different way. We believe that through time, preparation, guidance, and lots of love and compassion, your child will reach a level of success. Each child leaves the program with the opportunity to have a good foundation of self-esteem and success. A keystone in our program is the Creative Curriculum which, among other goals, helps children learn how to make "good" choices.

A Pre-School child flourishes in a learning community where they feel comfortable and find it easy to ask for help. Families and the community are involved in providing diverse educational programs, with specific "themes" for each week. In a warm, safe, and loving atmosphere, your child feels more comfortable and willing to learn.

Pre-K Kids Learning Center program is designed to meet the developmental needs of your Pre-School child. Your child has the opportunity to encounter many new and exciting experiences, with the following skills stressed for acceptance into kindergarten:

- Recognize, recite, and print the letters of the alphabet
- Recognize, recite, and print the numbers 1-100
- Recognize their name in print and be able to print in legibly
- Know the month and day of birth
- Know their first and last name

- Know their address and phone number
- Identify the primary shapes
- Identify the colors red, yellow, blue, purple, orange, white, brown, black, green
- Dress themselves (zipper, tie, and button)
- Cognitive skills (memory, logical thinking, relationships)
- Hygiene
- Gross and fine motor skills
- Life Skills Program which helps your child learn how to make "good" choices
- Socialization

Our day consists of structured activities such as circle time, learning centers, and group activities, as well as unstructured playtime. This format provides a nice blend of the formal with an opportunity for your child to be creative and imaginative. During circle time, the children come together as a group for shared activities such as review of the calendar and weather, a review about class rules and consequences, and themed activities. (finger play, songs, discussions, or a group activity based on the theme of the week).

Children work in small cooperative groups at learning centers, rotating through four centers throughout the week:

- STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math - identifying colors and shapes, counting, measuring, matching, and sorting. Then discovering which objects will roll, what will float, what will sink, building block towers
- Art - cutting, pasting, coloring, painting, creative expression
- Language arts - recognizing, reciting, and printing the letters of the alphabet, recognizing and printing names, listening to stories, describing and sequencing events in stories and illustrations.

### **Before & After School Program**

*What an exhilarating age! Young school-age children are full of physical zest and eager to take on both mental and physical challenges. The Before/After School Program at Pre-K Kids Learning Center is designed to meet both areas of your school-age child's needs in a safe supervised environment.*

Having spent several hours in the structure of a classroom, the first thing needed is the opportunity to work off some of the pent up energy. Pre-K Kids offers a play facility designed to stimulate and challenge young children up to and including the age of 12 years. Our large outside play area allows space for activities to burn off all that energy. Indoor activities include a variety of age appropriate board games, computers, and even assistance with homework.

Key features of Pre-K Kids Learning Center before & after School Program include:

- Bus transportation to and from the Shenango elementary school to Pre-K Kids.
- Snack
- Early dismissal pick-up/delayed opening care

### **Teachers' Role**

The teacher is the primary person responsible for delivering curriculum that meets the needs of the individual children in her classroom. To ensure that each teacher is properly supported in this critical role, Pre-K Kids Learning Center is committed to providing ongoing professional development through college course work, workshops, teacher meetings, and ongoing coaching and mentoring.

### **Parents' Role**

We encourage parents to work alongside teachers to learn new skills and contribute their own life learning. We ask for feedback on the learning that takes place at home and in the classroom. We also document the child

and group learning so that parents have evidence of what happens in the classroom when they cannot be present.

### **Assessment**

Teachers assess and document children's learning by observing them during exploratory play and small group activities using a variety of methods (photographs, running records, work samples, and checklists). Teachers use the assessment information to plan learning activities and to share information with parents informally and at formal conferences.

We are adopting the *Teaching Strategies* Gold tool for the assessment and documentation process. This tool helps us better plan our instruction and share our feedback. It is also aligned to the *Creative Curriculum* materials. We are also moving toward the implementation of a more formal portfolio process for each child. This portfolio will move with the child as he or she progresses through our programs and, in time, will be electronically stored.

Pre-K Kids Learning Center also assesses the curriculum and teacher implementation of the curriculum on a regular basis to ensure the best quality for our children.