

Our Guiding Principles



Research shows that children learn by doing, and they need many opportunities to explore and grow. Preschool activities foster creativity and promote emotional, cognitive, social, language, and physical development. Appropriate activities build self-esteem and enthusiasm for learning.

Program Goals

- **The curriculum will be based on current research and sound educational theories of early childhood learning and development.**
- **Activities will promote strong relationships between children and the adults who care for them.**
- **We will provide a wide range of hands-on, interactive materials allowing children to experiment, explore, and make choices while interacting with their surroundings.**
- **The program will encourage involvement of family members and naturally incorporate cultural diversity into each child's learning.**
- **All activities will be aligned with our Early Learning and Development Continuum.**

Our Curriculum



1. Emphasizes **safety**. Note that some activities in our Curriculum Guides may present safety issues. Before beginning the activities, ask families' permission and inquire about food allergies and religious, cultural, or other restrictions. You choose only the activities that are appropriate for the children in your group, and supervision is a requirement.
2. Provides consistency and a predictable routine, which is comforting to children. Children are relaxed and ready to learn when they can anticipate what is happening next. As children move through developmental milestones, they will need to practice skills at which they are successful. The variety of skill levels will vary greatly with any group of children, even those that are all the same chronological age. Only you know how long to stick with an activity for the benefit of the children in your care. Activities may change or be repeated. You may spend fewer or more minutes on a specific activity; the daily/weekly routine is a guide.
3. Includes **open-ended** activities and materials that build a learning community in your program. When materials can be used in a variety of ways, more children benefit. Activities that allow for multi-ages and multi-skill levels will include more children. Older children or those with more advanced skills will be models for younger children or those who haven't yet attained the skill. Activities in this curriculum encourage children to work together, share, and be successful at their individual skill level.
4. Promotes **multisensory experiences**. Many opportunities are included in our activities that allow children to learn through touch, smell, taste, vision, and hearing. We know that children learn best when information is provided through all the senses. Inquire with families about scent, plant, or animal sensitivities and/or allergies the children may have before beginning any new activities.
5. Invites **exploration and discovery**. The activities in our kits include open-ended questions to promote language development, thinking, and problem solving. When you model curiosity and wonder and encourage divergent thinking, you will be helping children reach new levels of development and deeper understanding of concepts.

Your Role



In early childhood, our common goal is to provide opportunities for children to learn and grow. We strive to allow children to become independent thinkers and problem-solvers. It is your job to provide a quality, safe and nurturing setting supplied with developmentally appropriate materials and a relaxed, flexible yet predictable schedule. Care should be taken to support and encourage cultural diversity in your setting through language, books, celebrations, foods, music, art, and more.

On some days, children may have little or no interest in the activities you have planned. If this is the case, encourage them to choose an activity from one of the centers you have provided. Be ready to change plans if children seem out of sorts, tired, or need additional large motor play to burn energy. Children must be interested and ready to learn in order for the activity to be of any value to them.

Allow for individuality, especially with art activities. Give children ample time to complete their creations. Each child's project should look unique. There should be no "right" or "wrong" way to use materials. Encourage children to complete steps on their own and only provide assistance when absolutely needed. Have children tell you about their completed projects. Ask open-ended questions while the children are exploring and creating. Be sure to provide time for children to freely explore supplies to create art.