

Statement on Curriculum

Based on our philosophy, the curriculum at Shining Star Pre-School is designed to meet the needs of the whole child through a play-oriented, integrated approach. Children are provided with a variety of materials and are encouraged to make choices about the ways they will use the materials. Each activity is designed to provide the opportunity for each individual child to interact with the materials in a unique way. Each activity is also designed to potentially provide learning encounters in a range of areas. Thus, each child is provided with an individual experience. Each activity provided at Shining Star Pre-School is viewed as enhancing each individual child's potential for positive learning experiences and development in a range of curriculum areas.

In translating this philosophy into daily practice, we provide an environment that is divided into learning centers. During child choice time, each learning center provides activities consistent with that area of the classroom. Children are free to choose a center or centers for participation as well as the nature of their interaction with the materials. During our activity times, over the course of a week, the following types of activities will be frequently offered:

Creative Art: Examples include painting, collage, gluing, recycled construction, sculpting.....

Manipulatives: Examples include buttons, Lego blocks, small peg sticks, detachable chains links, color sorting, shape sorting.....

Science Experiences: Examples include weights, magnets, balancing, mixing, sensory experiences, chick hatching.....

Texture Experiences: Examples include water, sand, goop, rice, beans, play doh.....

Creative Dramatics: Examples include dress up play, hospital play, restaurant play, beauty parlor play, spaceship play.....

Circle Time: Examples include songs, stories, instruments, finger plays, games, movement, literacy activities, listening.....

Academics: Examples include numbers, letters, colors.....

This approach to curriculum offers children a wide variety of choices. Children are encouraged to choose not only the activities they want to participate in but also the way in which they will interact with the material. These choices help children to develop initiative, high self-esteem, creativity, and the ability to independently solve problems.