

the little school at Kids Cottage

Curriculum Overview

The preschool curriculum at the little school is designed around a weekly theme. Each theme is chosen to reflect the age and interest of the children in the program with special attention given to community events and involvement, multicultural customs and celebrations, and developmentally appropriate skills and topics. The curriculum emphasizes the whole child and includes activities in the following developmental areas: Language, Motor (gross motor and fine motor), Social, Emotional, and Cognitive.

Language Development

Language Development is approached in two main ways. The first is through a language and a literacy rich environment. Each day includes reading to groups of children from a wide variety of children's literature and reading centers. The classroom environment is also rich with many examples of written language including posters, teacher and child made labels and classmate and teacher names. The second way in which language development is approached is through phonics instruction. Phonics is included in the classrooms of our four and five day programs twice a week. Additionally, children ages 3 to 5 years participate once a week in Spanish class in which they are introduced to the fundamentals of the Spanish language through stories, song and dance.

Motor Development

Large motor skills are approached through many different activities. Children spend time acting out stories, moving to music or following directions in songs during music class. Each day, weather permitting, children are offered an opportunity for outdoor playground time which can include running, climbing, swinging, sliding and sand play. During inclement weather, we are fortunate enough to be able to play on our indoor playground. We also take many field trips to allow our students opportunities to walk and grow while interacting with the community. Fine motor skills are focused on primarily in the preschool classroom. On a daily basis children are involved in some form of art. Children experience many types of tools and mediums such as paint brushes, finger paints, markers, pencils, crayons, cutting, play dough, gluing and folding.

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Social Development

Social development is at the center of the little school at Kids Cottage's curriculum. Children are introduced to a structured class and encouraged to participate in all parts of the program. Activities are done individually, in small groups and in large groups to help children adjust to all situations. Free choice is offered every day providing children with an opportunity to choose activities of interest while learning how to interact and play with their peers.

Emotional Development

Emotional development is a daily priority as we strive to build a child's self-esteem and create a foundation for learning that will last a lifetime. Children are recognized for their attempts as well as their accomplishments. The projects they create are proudly displayed throughout year.

Cognitive Development

Cognitive Development is achieved through developmental appropriateness. Teachers have knowledge of early childhood development through college classes, workshops, reading, observations and personal experience. The curriculum is created so that a progression of skills are taught that will encourage a child's natural developmental. Children are introduced to concepts, letters, numbers, colors, shapes, foreign languages, and words through planned activities. As skills increase, these activities allow the child to grow and engage in more meaningful experiences. Skills continue to develop in this manner with gentle encouragement from teachers and repeated opportunities to use new skills and concepts.