

## **Preschool Curriculum and the Learning Environment**

Children learn by doing. Through active involvement with their environment, children attempt to make sense of the world around them. They learn by observing what happens when they interact with materials and other people. They spontaneously engage in activities such as block building, painting, or dramatic play, adding pieces of information to what they already know and thereby generating new understandings. Children learn simple concepts and then use these concepts to grasp more complex ideas.

The Children's Center teachers plan an environment and curriculum that will stimulate your child's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. We follow The Creative Curriculum for Early Childhood planning system. Each classroom is designed with the following play experiences:

**Creative arts and crafts** foster creativity and build skills that lead to reading, writing and seeing beauty in life.

**Construction play** (block, building sets) helps children learn about science and numbers, fosters creativity and builds muscle strength and coordination.

**Dramatic and pretend play** helps children use their imagination, explore and understand the world, learn how to work together, practice new behaviors and imitate grown-up behaviors.

**Books and recordings** help children appreciate literature and music, and develop intellect.

**Sand, water, playdough**, etc. provide sensory stimulation, and opportunities to understand more about math and science; explore properties of matter.

**Table toys** (cognitive toys, games, fine motor toys) provide hand-eye coordination, intellectual stimulation, and present opportunities for cooperation and problem solving.

**Active play equipment** builds strong muscles and confidence to meet physical challenges, and promotes healthy minds and bodies.

**Health and Nutrition** helps children build skills to promote positive mental wellness, dental health, physical health and safety awareness.

**Reading, Writing, Numbers and Language** skills are built into all the activities we provide each day, children will build kindergarten readiness skills through both teacher directed and self directed activities.

**Physical Activities** The Children's Center's objective is to increase strength and endurance by improving muscular coordination, helping to control bodily function and promoting safety rules.

**Cognitive Activities** The center's objective is to teach children to listen and follow directions so projects can be completed. These cognitive activities will also help increase attention spans.

Children learn to formulate information and converse intelligently. They also develop skills that help them recall information for problem solving.

**Emotional Activities** The Children's Center strives to establish a positive self-concept. The child will learn to moderate withdrawal or aggression, increase self-control, and channel emotions.

**Social Activities** Children will participate in group activities and learn to share and take turns. They will master appropriate behavior as a leader and follower and will learn to respect the rights and property of others.