



HELPFUL HINTS FOR A HAPPY PRE-KINDERGARTEN YEAR

We are very enthusiastic about the year ahead and are looking forward to working with each of your children.

1. Your child in Pre-Kindergarten will be learning to:

- A. Work alone and independently.
- B. Share and take turns.
- C. Explore and expand abilities and interests.
- D. Express thoughts and ideas.
- E. Listen to others and learn to follow directions.

2. There will be activities designed to:

- A. Grow in the awareness of God's love.
- B. Build self-confidence.
- C. Show differences in sound, size, shape and color.
- D. Develop vocabulary through stories and discussion.
- E. Increase interest in people, books, environment, numbers.
- F. Improve coordination through gross motor skills.
- G. Introduce new ideas.
- H. Introduce fine motor skills.

3. Here are some things you can do to help your child experience a rewarding school year.

- Be positive! Help your child look forward to school.
- Make sure your child has plenty of rest.
- Never send your child to school when they are ill.
- Take your child on trips (library, park, supermarket, etc.)
- Listen to your child and talk with them.
- Read to your child. Teach them nursery rhymes.
- Let them color and work with clay.
- Make sure your child knows his/her address and telephone number.
- Make sure your child learns to say no to strangers.
- Pray with your child and help him/her be aware of God's gifts in Creation.
- Teach them and insist upon good manners.
- Teach your child how to tie shoe laces, zip zippers, and button buttons.
- Praise children for a job well done.

Most holidays are celebrated in the classroom or at least mentioned. We will have classroom parties for the following holidays: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. There will be a class parent who will organize the parties and inform the other parents of particular needs.

What We Do In Pre-School

Circle Time: is a group gathering during which we share our ideas, plans and observations. Circle activities are designed to stimulate youngsters' thinking, enrich their social skills and expand their attention spans.

Gross-Motor Activities: gives children the opportunity to use their muscles, as well as, their imaginations as they engage in fun such as: running, jumping, climbing and healthy exercises.

Fine-Motor Activities: helps improve small muscle development and eye/hand coordination. Some common items found in the fine-motor/manipulative area include puzzles, beads, laces, pegboards, crayons and scissors.

Art Activities: helps youngsters creatively express their thoughts and feelings. They help reinforce fine motor skills and concept development in such areas such as colors, shapes and size relationships.

Dramatic Play Activities: helps children express themselves, practice life skills, improve social skills, increase self-esteem, build vocabulary and solve problems. Dramatic play is just plain fun.

Music Activities: promotes listening skills, creative expression and social skills. In music, children can explore sound and volume, tempo and rhythm. They learn songs, dance and use various instruments.

Science Activities: offers many hands on opportunities for observation, exploration, investigation, making predictions and experimentation.

Sand and Water Activities: allows a youngster to experiment with textures and the properties of different substances. These activities promote the development of other skills, such as Math, Science and Language.

Block Play: gives children with many different concepts such as shape and size discrimination, spatial relationships, number skills, balance, organization, cause and effect and classification. Cooperative play skills, problem solving and creativity are also promoted in block play.

Story Time: helps children develop an appreciation and enjoyment of literature. Reading activities enhance children's vocabulary, comprehension skills and expand their knowledge base.