

# Holy Spirit Christian Nursery School Curriculum



The curriculum for Holy Spirit Christian Nursery School establishes goals to foster growth at the appropriate developmental level. In each classroom, our staff nurtures the development of skills and abilities across the stages of development. Children begin growing and developing in the social, physical and academic area in the Twos and Threes classes but continue growing within each area throughout nursery school.

## Two-Year-Olds “Kangas and Joeys”



In the “Kangas and Joeys” class, a child and a parent/caregiver attend the class together. Children have an opportunity to play independently and together with other two-year-olds. They also experience a short group time for songs and stories and a time for snack. Parents have a time for adult interaction as well. The curriculum focuses on playing cooperatively, communicating with a small group of adults and children, and listening to stories in a group setting.

## First School Experience Three-Year-Olds: Tadpoles and Pollywogs



In the Three-Year-Old class (2 and 3 sessions/week), children experience a time away from parents and home. They have the opportunity for independent and group play, small group learning, and whole group activities.

### Social/Interpersonal - Ability to:

- Separate from Mom/Dad
- Play cooperatively
- Follow simple directions
- Communicate wants and needs

### Mathematics - Ability to:

- Recognize simple shapes and patterns
- Categorize items
- Count (1-10)
- Use language to compare objects (bigger than, smaller than) and describe position (over, under, first, second)

Three-Year-Olds continued...

Literacy - Ability to:

- Identify book front cover and turn book pages
- Identify rhyming words
- Recognize own name
- Talk to friends/teacher
- Listen to friends/teacher
- Listen to a story and respond to it
- Identify colors

Other - Develop gross and fine motor skills

## Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Four and Five-Year-Olds:

### Cubs... Panda Bears & Brown Bears



The Panda Bears (3 or 4 sessions/week) and the Brown Bears (4 days/week) experience play, group activities, and small and whole group learning. Children learn through play, stories, songs and activities. Early literacy and mathematics skills are intertwined within the activities and play. At the end of this experience, some children will move into kindergarten and some will attend another year of nursery school.

Social/Interpersonal - Ability to:

- Be a friend
- Play cooperatively
- Work well with others
- Be part of a classroom community
- Participate in group discussion
- Follow simple directions
- Communicates wants and needs

Literacy - Ability to:

- Talk and listen to friends/teacher
- Identify and make up words that rhyme
- Listen to a book and respond to it
- Identify letters and letter sounds
- Write own name

Mathematics - Ability to:

- Recognize numbers (1-20)
- Count (1-20)
- Categorize items
- Recognize and create simple patterns
- Identify shapes

Other Areas

- Develop gross motor skills
- Develop fine motor skills...cut, draw simple shapes, hold pencil correctly

## Cubs... Polar Bears



The Polar Bear Classes(4 days/week) is designed children who are five or almost five years old, children whose parents choose an extra year of pre-school or whose birthday just misses the school cut-off. They experience time to learn and/or enrich early literacy and mathematics skills while expanding friendship and social skills within a small classroom community.

### Social/Interpersonal - Ability to:

- Be a friend
- Play cooperatively
- Work well with others
- Be part of a classroom community
- Participate in group discussion
- Follow directions
- Communicates wants and needs
- Attempt new activities

### Literacy - Ability to:

- Talk and listen to friends/teacher
- Identify and make up words that rhyme
- Listen to a book, make connections and respond to it
- Retell stories

- Identify letters and letter sounds
- Write own name
- Represent experiences through developmentally appropriate writing

### Mathematics - Ability to:

- Recognize numbers (1-20)
- Categorize items by attribute
- Recognize and create simple patterns
- Count (1-20)
- Recognize and reproduce simple geometric shapes
- Participate in group problem solving

### Other Areas -

- Develop and refine gross motor skills
- Develop/refine fine motor skills...cut, draw simple shapes, hold pencil correctly



## Busy Beavers

(Three Week Sessions planned for children who are Age 4 by the first session)

On Fridays, the Busy Beavers enrich their week-long learning. Besides making new friends, children will have more time to play, explore and create through fantasy, science, and social studies themes. (Knights, dragons, princesses, engineering/science projects, building, painting, cooking, reading/writing, and drama name a few.)

## **Playful Penguins** (Age 3-5 years)



On Tuesday and Wednesday, we invite the children to pack a lunch and stay for an afternoon of extended play time. A variety of creative play and learning experiences will be offered. Past themes have included Community Helpers, Robots, Ice, Paint Your Heart Out and Let's Get Building. (Several six-week sessions will be offered. A minimum number of children are required to offer the class.)