

Preschool Curriculum

OVERVIEW

The preschool curriculum is taught thematically. Each week there is a certain topic or theme about which the children learn. Incorporated into each theme are lessons pertaining to each of the following areas: Religion, Language Arts (including handwriting), Math, Music, Physical Education, Science and Social Studies.

Religion

The CPH *Voyages* curriculum is used for a daily Jesus Time. Jesus Time consists of a weekly Bible story which is enriched with puppets, songs of praise to God, finger plays and prayers. The children learn to pray for their classmates who are sick and then branch out to include others in their prayers. They learn to know God the Father as their creator who will always love them and who sent His son, Jesus, to die and rise from the dead to take away their sin. The preschoolers are taught to show God's love to each other and to the world in their Christmas collection of baby items for Nurses for Newborns and the spring trike-a-thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital. Once a week, the 4's AM class attends the weekly chapel with the kindergarten class.

Language Arts

Literacy is supported in our preschool classrooms by exposing the children to oral and written language. Oral language experiences are provided throughout the day as teacher and children engage in conversations about the preschool educational themes and the life experiences both bring to the classroom. Preschool 4's have the added weekly benefit of using their Alphabet Bags to share and speak in front of the class. Learning opportunities are provided for the children to increase their listening abilities and their ability to follow simple directions. Children participate in finger plays, rhymes and songs.



Dramatic play activities are set up to encourage experiences with oral language. Examples of these activities are using the puppets in the puppet theatre, playing in the housekeeping center or the construction center, playing games, etc.

In the area of written language, children are read to on a daily basis using books, charts, magazines, etc. and the Library Corner offers books for individual reading experiences in the classroom. Our preschoolers dictate real experiences and stories for their teacher to write on chart paper or in their portfolios and are also encouraged to express themselves through drawing.

The *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum for preschool that is used is called *GET SET FOR SCHOOL*. It provides multisensory lessons and activities in coloring, drawing, singing, writing the uppercase alphabet and school readiness.

Math

Hands-On Math: Manipulative Math for Young Children from Scott, Foresman and Company is the basis for our math studies. The children participate in hands-on activities that include patterning, sorting, matching, geometry, numeral recognition, counting skills, measurement and spatial relations.

Science



The children use their senses and their natural curiosity to make predictions and learn about their world. Through the preschool educational themes, the children learn about the Fall, the weather, nutrition, space, plants and animals.

Social Studies



The Christian classroom environment encourages each child to have a healthy sense of self and positive self-esteem. (God made each of us and loves us unconditionally.) Social skills are fostered, as well as guiding the children into self-regulating their emotions and behaviors. Effective communication is taught, rather than physical solutions to a problem. Through the preschool educational themes, the children learn about themselves, their friends, families and holidays.

Art

Preschoolers have opportunities to work with a variety of medium: crayons, markers, paints, different kinds of paper, scissors, glue, etc. Art is used as a learning tool for fine motor control and for teaching color, line, shape, form and texture.

Music

Music is incorporated into almost every aspect of the preschool day. Children are given opportunities to sing, dance and listen to music that is appropriate to the preschool educational themes.

Physical Education

Children daily take part in activities that promote large and small motor development. Large motor activities (usually outside when the weather permits) include running, jumping, throwing, catching, walking, hopping, galloping, marching and balancing. Children participate with parachutes, beanbags, balls and other equipment. Fine motor skills (usually inside) include lacing, stringing (beads, noodles, etc.), drawing, painting, working with play dough, constructing with manipulatives and cutting. Children refine these skills with scissors, brushes, crayons, markers, play dough, blocks, puzzles and various manipulatives.

Special Events

Parent Information Night---end of August before school starts. This is a time for parents to find out about the preschool year.

Preschool Open House---the Friday before school starts. This is a time for preschoolers to visit their classroom with a parent before school starts.

Thanksgiving Feast---last class day before Thanksgiving break. Preschoolers “cook” their feast and participate in various activities reminiscent of the first Thanksgiving.

All-School Christmas Concert---a Sunday afternoon in December. Preschoolers sing several songs and recite a finger play.

Christmas Collection is a collection of baby items (Preschoolers can make a connection to Baby Jesus.) given to Nurses for Newborns.

Dad’s Night---an evening class instead of a day class, usually in February before Lent. Dads and children come for a themed night of crafts, stories, singing and large motor activities.

Grandparents’ Easter Party---last class day before Easter. Grandparents are invited for a craft, an egg hunt, a story, snacks and some entertainment by their preschoolers.

Trike-a-thon---a warm, sunny school day in April! Children bring in donations to help sick children at St. Jude Children’s Hospital and spend most of their class day practicing bike safety as they ride their bikes.

Mom’s Tea---last class day before Mother’s Day. Mom is invited for a craft, a story, snacks made by their preschoolers and some entertainment by their preschoolers.

Preschool closing and Picnic---last day of school. The preschoolers sing songs and recite finger plays from the whole school year. Afterwards, everyone is invited to the park for a picnic.



Preschool Teacher/Director, Mrs. Diane Albers - I graduated from Concordia Teacher's College (now Concordia University) in Seward, Nebraska with a BA in Education. My major was English and I had a minor in psychology. Although I have taught every level from preschool through freshman English, I feel that my particular gifts, talents and desires continue to lead me to the area of early childhood. I enjoy fostering the special excitement that comes with early learning and I enjoy meeting and working with the 40+ sets of preschool families! The teaching of God's love and His salvation is an integral part of everything that I do in my ministry here at WOL, as well as encouraging my students to be life-long learners.

OUR MISSION: *Word of Life Lutheran School is committed to providing a high quality educational program in an environment where Christ prevails, where a child’s human and spiritual needs are met, and where love, dignity and professional accountability are valued promoted and implemented.*