

### **THREE – FIVE YEAR OLD PHILOSOPHY**

We know that three to five-year-olds develop at varying rates and have designed our curriculum to be developmentally appropriate for each age level. We prepare the environment so that it provides stimulating, challenging materials and activities and encourage children to actively engage in these learning opportunities. Teachers prepare weekly lesson plans designed to provide a variety of learning activities in order to support each child's physical, cognitive, social/emotional and creative development. These lessons are supplemented with field trips, rotating equipment and special enrichment programs.

### **THREE – FIVE YEAR OLD GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

To provide each child opportunities to:

#### **DEVELOP PHYSICALLY**

- By engaging in active play such as jumping, running, balancing, climbing and riding
- By learning about and with the five senses
- By engaging in fine motor activities using educational manipulative such as puzzles
- By participating in creative movement activities using music and drama to develop coordination and rhythm
- By learning toilet and hand-washing skills
- By becoming aware of health, nutrition and safety issues in everyday life

#### **DEVELOP COGNITIVELY**

- By labeling, classifying, and sorting objects by shape, color and size
- By observing, comparing and describing objects and events, thus increasing the vocabulary
- By making inferences and predictions from observations and experiences
- By communicating needs, wishes, and ideas in an appropriate manner
- By organizing thoughts in order to relate or express experiences and feeling verbally
- By learning to listen with increasing attention and to follow simple directions
- By asking good questions and seeking to discover solutions to problems
- By being introduced to letters and numbers
- By becoming familiar with concepts of time, money, days of the week and months of the year

#### **DEVELOP SOCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY**

- By expressing positive and negative feelings appropriately and resolving conflicts peacefully
- By learning the pro-social skills of helping, taking turns, cooperating, sharing and caring in a group setting
- By practicing decision-making skills and learning to accept responsibility for those decisions
- By developing good work habits and respect for the value of work, taking pride in a job well done
- By recognizing and respecting the rights, feelings and property of others, regardless of age, race, gender, ability, ethnic, religious or socioeconomic background
- By developing a greater awareness of the self as a valued individual and as a member of a family and community
- By developing a positive intergenerational attitude through meaningful relationships and exchanges

#### **DEVELOP CREATIVE EXPRESSION**

- By experiencing a variety of visual art, music, dance, cooking and drama activities, focusing on process rather than end-product
- By experimenting with a variety of tools, materials and manipulative for open-ended exploration
- By engaging in pretend play and fantasy to nurture the imagination
- By appreciating the arts and cultures of other people, places and times
- By becoming more discriminating observers of shape, color and design
- By developing self-confidence in expressing and producing individual ideas and gaining satisfaction in completing projects

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

Preschool children are in the beginning stages of faith development. What they learn about God comes largely from their relationship with caring adults. We trust that children will see themselves as unique creations of God and part of a loving Christian family. The focus of our program is on God's love as seen through the helping, sharing and caring demonstrated by Jesus. Application to life is an integral part of the curriculum. This is accomplished through:

Scripture – using Bible stories

Life – using everyday stories that show children how the principle presented in the Bible story can be lived in their life

Concrete examples – using object lessons and their own personal examples or stories

Chapel – weekly visit to the chapel give children the opportunity to become familiar with and enjoy the church/chapel setting

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide for each child opportunities to:
- Appreciate the wonders of God's creation; realize that God made the world for them to take care of and enjoy
- Realize God made many kinds of people and that each person is very special and important to God.
- Discover that God loves them and provides people to care for them
- Use all their senses to explore God's world; realize God created them with the ability to learn new things
- Begin to thank God for sending Jesus to love them and be their friend
- Realize that Jesus grew, just as they are growing – that He learned just as they are learning
- Become familiar with Bible stories
- Begin to participate in simple prayers and songs of praise; start to pray for others
- Begin to see that everyone in the church family is Jesus' helper & tell others about God's love
- Realize that by doing things together they can accomplish things they could not accomplish alone
- Understand God loves them unconditionally
- Learn ways to show God's Love



Gloria Dei Preschool  
Discovery Center