

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

INFANTS, ONES,
AND TWOS



Mission Statement

Good Shepherd Early Learning Center is dedicated to the ongoing development of creative thinkers while building positive self-esteem in an effective and developmentally appropriate learning environment.

Early Childhood Philosophy

It is the philosophy of Good Shepherd Early Learning Center that children be encouraged to learn and grow by providing a foundation of developmentally appropriate experiences where all children can succeed in a safe and nurturing environment.

We believe that each child is a unique individual and that all children can learn. Our preschool programs provide inclusive settings that recognize children's varied abilities, interests, needs, and learning styles.

Research shows that children learn best through meaningful play. Our play-based, child centered program reflects the integration of physical, cognitive, social, emotional, language, self-help, and aesthetic areas for the total development of the child. Meaningful play encourages curiosity, discovery, and problem solving which allows individual positive growth and development of a child's sense of self.

We recognize that parents are the child's first teachers. Children learn best when parents are involved in their educational growth; thus the bridge between home and school is the primary and most important educational decision a family will make. (The statement and beliefs in this philosophy reflect the position of the National Association for the Education of Young Children -NAEYC).

Curriculum

Frog Street Press was chosen as the research and brain-based curriculum for our infants and toddlers based on its developmentally appropriate approach to learning. In addition, Frog Street Press was adopted for the PreK3 and PreK4 curriculum as well. This adoption for the infants, ones, and two year olds makes the annual classroom transitions more cohesive for differentiated instruction year after year.

The philosophy behind Frog Street Press is that young children learn best by doing. Learning isn't just repeating what someone else says; learning requires active thinking and experimenting to find out how things work and to learn firsthand about the world

The curriculum identifies goals in all areas of development:

- **Language Development:** to help children build their vocabulary and be able to discriminate sounds, which are the most important predictors of reading success; a language-rich environment filled with sounds is provided through play, finding patterns, songs, stories, rhymes, chants, activities, etc...
- **Cognitive:** to help children become confident learners by letting them forge their own ideas and experience success, and by helping them acquire learning skills such as the ability to solve problems, ask questions, and use words to describe their ideas, observations and feelings
- **Social-Emotional:** to help children feel comfortable in school, trust their environment, make friends, and feel they are a part of the group as well as experience a positive sense of self, develop independence and self-regulation, and have a positive attitude toward life
- **Physical:** to help children increase their fine and gross motor skills and feel confident about what their bodies can do