

## *Early Childhood Educational Center Curriculum and Framework*

### **Three Year Olds:**

We will provide a foundation in religious formation. The Sadler Religion Series will be used to introduce Discovering God's World in areas such as:

- Family/Friends
- God's Gift of People
- Caring for God's World, etc.

We will provide love, guidance, and learning. Children need to learn to get along with others and be able to take care of themselves independently.

Our Readiness program will be The Active Learning Series (Cryer) and will include:

#### **Activities for Listening and Talking (Books and Pictures)**

Words are important to three-year-olds as a way of telling you what they want. Words also help a child think and remember. Three-year-olds are able to do more with words every day. They will have activities in which Threes get the warm personal experiences with books that make learning to read more fun later on.

#### **Activities for Physical Development (Large and Small Muscles)**

Threes enjoy physical activity. When they are actively moving around, they seem happy and involved. Often a sad time can be turned into a happy one by taking a break and going outdoors. Daily active play both indoors and outdoors in a safe space is important for a group of Threes. Three-year-olds need lots of practice in using their fingers and hands. Activities with materials that use these small muscles, such as puzzles, pegboards and beads, give Threes chances to solve simple problems and use their eyes and hands together.

#### **Creative Activities (Art)**

Art, blocks, dramatic play and music give Threes chances to do interesting things by themselves that show clear results. Threes love to sing along with familiar songs, they also enjoy pretending about the things they see happening around them.

#### **Activities for learning from the world around them (Nature)**

Experiences with real things continue to be important to Threes in the development of thinking and feeling. The senses: hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch -- are their main ways of experiencing the world. As children grow, they form ideas to help them understand all the information coming in from their senses. They also learn the words that go with those ideas, to use in thinking and communication.

Our entire learning environment shall be designed to stimulate total language development. We need to remember that children are learning all the time. You can help at home by:

- Letting them dress themselves
- Use spoon and fork
- Feel good about themselves
- Read to them every night

## **Two Year Olds:**

We will provide a foundation in religious formation. The children will learn:

- Prayers
- Bible Stories
- Christian Songs

We will provide developmental care that will help children develop both their minds and bodies in a safe and healthy place.

Our readiness program will be The Active Learning Series (Cryer) and will include:

### **Activities for Listening and Talking (Books and Pictures)**

- Story Time
- Puppets Tell a Story
- Words for How Things Are Used
- Match Pictures
- Big/Little, etc.

### **Activities for Physical Development (Large and Small Muscles)**

- Rolling and Throwing
- Kick the Ball
- Riding Toys
- Scribbling with Crayons
- Feeding Themselves
- Puzzles

### **Creative Activities**

- Art
- Blocks
- Dramatic Play
- Music

### **Activities for Learning from the World Around Them**

- Five Senses
- Number, Shape, Size, and Color

These activities will help children become good thinkers as they have fun playing with real things.

Things you can do at home:

- Read each night
- Encourage clean-up after work/playtime
- Work on feeding themselves without help
- Begin the process of sleeping without pacifier

## **Infants and Toddlers:**

We will provide high quality care where infants and toddlers learn and grow best. Infants and toddlers need to be held, loved and talked to, to be given things to look at and listen to, to play outside of cribs and be given help to do more things on their own.

Our readiness program will be The Active Learning Series (Cryer) and will include:

### **Activities for Listening and Talking (Books and Pictures)**

In order to learn to talk, a baby has to have other people talk to him. Infants and toddlers learn to talk by listening, copying, and slowly making their own sounds into words that can be understood. Infants and toddlers learn more from adult talk when the adult looks into the child's eyes while talking. We talk to the infant and toddlers so they can listen and copy. Other activities in this area will be the use of pictures and books. These activities form early experiences for later fun with books and reading.

### **Activities for Physical Development (Large and Small Muscles)**

Muscles grow strong only when infants and toddlers use them. The activities in this section make it more fun for them to do things that use all of their muscles. Large muscle activities for infants and toddlers include experiences in which the arm and body muscles are used and strengthened. Large muscle activities also include crawling, climbing, walking and running, throwing, and balancing. Small muscle activities include experiences in which children learn to control hand and finger movement. Eye-hand coordination improves during this time; children will enjoy pull-apart and put-together toys.

### **Creative Activities (Art)**

The activities in this section give infants and toddlers their first chance to enjoy music, art, block play, and dramatic play. Music is one of the first ways you and your child can listen to and talk to each other. Both art and block activities help children learn what they can do by themselves. Art for infants and toddlers includes things put up for them to look at as well as materials given to them to feel. Later on children can start to use drawing materials, finger-paints, and play dough.

### **Activities for Learning from the World Around Them (Nature)**

How we hear, see, smell, taste, and feel are our main ways of experiencing the world throughout our lives. As infants and toddlers grow, they need to learn ways to understand all the information coming in through their senses. Starting very early in life, a child needs many real experiences as a basis for this information. They also need adults who talk to them and describe what they see, hear, and feel. For infants and toddlers, using the five senses is the most natural way to learn. Infants enjoy tasting and feeling things in their mouths to learn. Toddlers continue to do this, but their other senses are used more as they reach two years of age. Shape, size, and color activities for infants and toddlers include activities in which an adult points out those attributes while the child experiences and explores toys, pictures, and other familiar things.