

2-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM CURRICULUM GUIDE



This booklet contains an outline of the philosophy and instructional goals for 2-year-old students at St. Joseph School. Overall, the philosophy of St. Joseph School emphasizes that learning is integrated, experiential, value-based and a foundation for continued and lifelong learning. Learning is designed to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth of each unique child.

PHILOSOPHY/MISSION

We believe at St. Joseph Preschool that each child is a unique individual with his/her own pattern of growth and development. We believe that to foster this growth socially, emotionally, intellectually, physically and spiritually, the child needs a planned environment, which is child-centered. The child needs a place where the teacher meets the child on his/her level, literally and developmentally, and which provides new opportunities to explore the world around them. Encouragement, understanding, nurturing and comfort are provided by the parents as well as the teacher.

Our program is carefully designed to allow children to learn through play and recognition/enhancement of individual talents and interests. This is accomplished through a variety of methodologies and best instructional practices distilled from a careful assessment of current programs and curricula. The classroom is a media and resource rich environment. The spiritual development of the child is aided via the signs and symbols of faith, age appropriate prayers and songs, gentle reminders of the importance of each individual and the need to work together, stories that emphasize the beauty of creation, the loving nature of God, and the wonder of each person. We encourage the child's natural curiosity about the world and support his/her desire for independence. We also set gentle limits that lead to self-discipline and self-acceptance.

We believe that the purpose of discipline is to guarantee the physical safety and emotional well being of every child and to help the individual child to develop self-control and assume responsibility for his/her own acts and choices. We

believe that young children during this stage of life are learning to internalize the components of acceptable social behavior. The school setting is a natural arena in which they may safely practice these skills under the guidance of early childhood professionals who understand that these tasks take time to achieve. We use positive guidance, telling children what they can do, and we reinforce this positive behavior. Gentle, firm and consistent verbal reminders are used with the children and, if necessary, the teacher may move a child within the classroom area away from a difficult situation until the child is able to resume participation.

We are aware that these early years are crucial in forming the child's attitudes about himself and others. With this understanding of our responsibility to you and your child, we welcome you to our school. We hope this year will be a very happy and rewarding experience for your entire family.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The following are the broad goals that are emphasized in the 2-year-old program:

- Help emotional and social development by encouraging self-confidence, self-expression, self-discipline and curiosity
- Improve and expand the child's ability to think, reason and speak clearly
- Provide varied developmentally appropriate experiences to broaden horizons, increase ease of conversation and improve understanding of the world
- Give frequent opportunities to experience success
- Develop a climate of confidence that will facilitate learning
- Increase the child's ability to cooperate and get along with others

Gross Motor Skills

- Develop coordination of large muscles in locomotor movement – walking, running, jumping, hopping, skipping, kicking and climbing
- Develop the ability to control the child's body in a variety of non-locomotor activities – balancing, bending, stooping, twisting, stretching and stirring
- Develop the ability to throw and catch with some accuracy

Fine Motor Skills

- Develop eye-hand coordination and the control of small muscles through the following activities:

Stringing beads

Working with pegs and boards

Painting

Cutting

Drawing

Pouring

Language and Speech

- Increase the ability to communicate by developing listening skills and clear speech, increasing vocabulary, improving memory and expressing ideas
- Increase awareness and knowledge of self and the environment through first-hand experiences, books and pictures
- Develop an interest in literature and the ability to recall sequence, understand content and predict outcome of simple stories
- Begin to recognize letters of the alphabet and one's own name in print

Number Concepts

- Develop the concept of quantity through the ability to count and compare
- Develop the concept of size by matching, measuring and comparing
- Begin to discriminate and name symbols for numbers

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- Begin to sort objects according to similar mathematical attributes
- Begin to develop the concept of time and sequence by following a daily schedule and observing birthdays and special holidays

Science Concepts

- Increase the ability to learn about physical characteristics of the environment through the use of the five senses
- Begin to understand the process of growth in self, animals and plants,
- Begin to observe seasonal and weather changes and relate them to change in one's own dress and activities

Social Concepts

- Develop an awareness of self and a place within the family unit
- Develop an appreciation of one's own importance and of other people, friends, and community helpers
- Begin to learn about one's own cultural heritage and traditions and those of other ethnic groups
- Become familiar with places in the neighborhood and city
- Become aware of modes of travel to nearby and distance places

Social/Emotional Skills

- Develop positive feelings about self
- Begin to make new friends

- Take turns and share responsibilities in group relations
- Accept one's feelings and express those feelings in appropriate ways
- Develop self-help skills and independence

Art & Music Concepts

- Develop an awareness and appreciation of beauty in the environment
- Develop an awareness of one's creative abilities through the free use of art media, tools and processes
- Use color, texture, form and arrangement in art work
- Increase perception of musical sounds and patterns by listening, singing and responding with musical instruments and body movements
- Incorporate music into daily life by developing a repertoire of simple songs

Nutrition/Health/Safety Concepts & Skills

- Develop good eating habits
- Recognize the names of common foods
- Develop a rudimentary knowledge of basic sanitation practices
- Develop and increase vocabulary relating to foods, safety, and health, i.e. traffic light, types of vegetables and fruits
- Develop a state of physical well being by practicing basic rules of health, hygiene and safety, i.e. washing hands, covering mouth and using tissue to wipe nose
- Identify the major parts and functions of the body

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