

St. Mary School Preschool Program Goals and Curriculum

Mission Statement: *St. Mary Catholic School Community empowers students to grow spiritually, academically, creatively, and physically so they may experience, understand, and live their responsibilities to God, family, community, and self.*

Program Goals

St. Mary School Preschool aims to provide an excellent early school experience while fostering the child's spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. God has made each child differently and wonderfully. Development can not be hurried or rushed because all children develop at different rates according to the way that God has made them. Development is intrinsic and cannot be hurried by experiences. Experiences foster the development that has occurred or is occurring. Trends in child development do exist, but cannot be traced to an exact age in which children will pass from one developmental state to another. Therefore, it is the goal of St. Mary Preschool to help children enjoy their development and school experience while keeping these overall goals in mind.

Spiritual Development

Children will:

- See themselves as a child of God
- Know that Jesus died on the cross for them
- Love Jesus
- Know that Jesus loves them
- Enjoy worship experiences
- Learn to love others

Social Development

Children will:

- Learn to share and take turns
- Work and play with other children
- Be kind to one another
- Listen and follow directions
- Participate in the activities of the school day

Emotional Development

Children will:

- Build a positive self-esteem
- Become comfortable and happy with the school environment
- Gain more and more independence
- Feel secure in the school environment
- Feel love and acceptance

Physical Development

Children will:

- Develop better motor control (both fine and gross)
- Practice large motor skills (hopping, skipping, jumping, running, etc.)
- Practice small motor skills (cutting, coloring, gluing, grasping, pinching, etc.)
- Use a variety of motor development equipment
- Recognize body parts

Cognitive Development

Children will:

- Learn to count and identify numbers
- Learn to identify and name shapes and colors
- Learn to identify and name capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- Learn to recognize and write their name
- Learn to solve problems in work and play
- Learn about themselves and the world around them
- Learn mathematical skills (categorizing, sorting, matching, sequencing, etc.)
- Enjoy the learning process and experience.

Curriculum Objectives

St. Mary Preschool/Pre-K will use the following curriculum objectives for planning activities, games, events, and lessons. Because we understand that all children develop uniquely, mastery is not required for each objective. These objectives clearly outline the types of things children will have the opportunity to learn and experience. The daily activities and lessons will aim to provide the opportunity for all children to meet the following curricular objectives:

Religion Objectives

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Know that God loves them-even when they make bad choices
- Learn that God made them special
- Learn that God made the world
- Learn that Jesus is their best friend
- Recognize the Bible as God's Word
- Learn about the Holy Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit)
- Know that Jesus died on the cross for them
- Learn that the wrong choices we made are called sins
- Know that Jesus forgives us
- Join in various worship activities
- Sing and remember songs
- Say prayers from memory
- Learn stories from the Bible
- Praise God through music
- Talk about how Jesus grew to be a man who served God, His Father
- Care for others by serving and helping them
- Learn that God gives us all that we need
- Say prayers spontaneously
- Forgive other people
- Learn that God hears and answers our prayers
- Know that God is all-powerful

Social Objectives

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Express needs and wants verbally
- Share with others
- Participate in large and small group settings
- Play near or with other children
- Follow simple directions
- Respond agreeably to adults
- Develop self-control

- Participate during clean up
- Verbally respond to questions
- Begin to move away from egocentrism (being centered on oneself)
- Become more articulate with speech sounds
- Distinguish between good and bad choices
- Become involved in using rules when playing with others
- Take turns during play and games
- Develop closer friendships
- Become more aware of the social world
- Participate in public speaking (talking to the whole group)

Emotional Objectives

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Develop a positive self-image
- Enjoy school and feel happy about learning
- Handle separation adequately
- Accept changes in routine
- Share adult attention
- Express positive and negative emotions appropriately/Use language to express emotions
- Ask for help when having difficulty with a task
- Try new experiences
- Learn to accept their strengths and weaknesses
- Begin to recognize and respect the feelings and needs of others

Physical Objectives (Gross and Fine Motor Skills)

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Recognize that God made each of us unique
- Understand the need for exercise (McP.S3.1)
- Participate in outdoor play
- Exhibit ease in body movement
- Exercise through play and group games to increase strength, endurance, and flexibility (McP.S4.1)
- Demonstrate a sense of balance (McP.S1.2)
- Run forward, jump in place with both feet together, walk on tiptoes, kick, throw, toss, bounce, and catch an object, walk on a line, balance, gallop, skip, and move to music (McP.S1.1, McP.S1.3, McP.S1.4)
- Move creatively with a tempo or rhythm (McP.S1.5)
- Use equipment (jungle gym, swings, hula hoop, etc.) in a coordinated and safe manner (McP.S5.1)
- Begin learning left and right sides of their body
- Manipulate blocks and other manipulatives for building and sorting (McP.S1.7)

- Manage own clothing adequately
- Turn pages in a book properly
- Hold and manipulate crayon, pencil, marker, paintbrush with developmentally appropriate grip (McP.S1.7)
- Write name clearly
- Manipulate buttons, zippers, laces, and snaps (McP.S1.8)

Cognitive Objectives

Language Arts/Reading

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Enjoy “reading” books and being read to (McPS5.11)
- Point to a picture or object
- Recall the names of things in their environment
- Give first and last name
- Recite simple prayers and songs
- Understand differences between letters, numbers, and words and know the significance of spaces between words (McPS5.2)
- Identify their name (McPS5.7)
- Identify letters in their name (McPS5.6)
- Draw pictures and dictate sentences about stories and experiences (McP.S5.3)
- Become a better listener
- Follow simple directions (1 -4 steps)
- Effectively communicate with teachers and classmates
- Locate and name their major body parts
- Identify each letter of the alphabet (McPS5.6)
- Distinguish the different sounds that letters make (phonemic awareness)Expand their vocabulary and use visual and verbal cues while reading to show comprehension (McPS5.13)
- Concepts of print: left to right direction, holding book right-side-up, identify the cover and title page of a book (McPS5.4, McPS5.5)
- Know that print appears in different forms (labels, letters, storybooks) and serves different purposes (to inform) (McPS5.8)
- Understand that books have authors, illustrators, characters, and stories (McPS5.12)
- Predicts story events or outcomes using illustrations and prior knowledge (McPS5.10)
- Retell a story
- Pick out a story’s beginning, middle, and end (McPS6.1)
- Know the elements that compose a story (characters, plot, events, setting) (McPS6.2)
- Understand the literal meaning of plays, poems, and stories (McPS6.3)
- Know the difference between fiction and non-fiction, real and make-believe (McPS6.4)
- Learn to read environmental print (McPS5.9)
- Role-play someone other than themselves
- Use words to solve problems more effectively

Math

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Identify geometric shapes (McP.S5.1)
- Match shapes and identify same versus different characteristics
- Count to 20 or beyond (McP.S2.2)
- Count objects with one-to-one correspondence (McP.S2.1, MCP.S2.3, MCP.S2.4)
- Identify numerals 0-10+ (McP.S2.6)
- Know the common language for comparing quantity of objects (more than, less than, same) (McP.S2.7)
- Understand that a whole object can be separated into parts (McP.S2.8)
- Distinguish more and less, short and long, empty and full, etc.
- Name the days of the week and begin to understand function of a calendar, concept of time (today, tomorrow,) and the sequence of events (use daily schedule) (McP.S2.9 MCP.S4.1)
- Know that the quantity of objects can change by adding or taking away (McP.S3.1)
- Write numerals 0-10+
- Complete puzzles
- Measure objects with non-standard tools (string, hands, Unifix cubes) and use common language of measurement (big, little, long, short) (McP.S4.2)
- Estimates quantities in real-world situations (McP.S4.3)
- Sort objects according to size or length (McP.S4.4) Know that different size containers will hold more or less (McP.S4.6)
- Understand the concept of position in a sequence (first, last, etc.) and location (above, below, beside, etc.) (McP.S2.5, MCP.S5.2) Build using blocks and other manipulatives
- Name the months of the year
- Develop patterns using shapes, colors, beads, etc.
- Use a graph to show number comparisons

Science

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Recognize the wonders of God and that He made everything
- Recognize and use their senses
- Describe the weather and what happens during each season change (McP.S1.1, MCP.S1.2)
- Recognize the 4 seasons and how the environment changes (McP.S1.3)
- Describe and classify different kinds of landforms on Earth and their properties (soil, sand, rock) (McP.S2.1, MCP.S2.2)
- Identify morning, day, and night and vocabulary to describe major features of the sky (McP.S3.1)
- Identify things that can and cannot be recycled
- Perform guided, basic, fun experiments and use explanations of methods and reasoning for results (McP.S3.1)
- Use magnets to explore magnetism
- Make fairly accurate predictions

- Plant and care for something that will grow
- Describe the functions of some of the major body parts (brain, heart, lungs, etc)
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- Know the terms living and nonliving and what living things need to survive. Understand that living things have similar needs (McP.S5.1, McPS5.3, McPS6.1)
- Know simple ways living things can be grouped (appearance, behavior, plant, animal) (McP.S7.1)
- Identify animals that hibernate
- Make observations and describe various properties (color, shape, size). Know that physical properties can change. (McP.S8.1, McP.S8.2, McP.S8.3)
- Know the effect of forces (wind, gravity) in nature (McP.S10.1)
- Know that objects can be moved in space (pushing, pulling, sinking) (McP.S10.2)
- Weigh object using a balance
- Explore the world through nature walks and other explorations
- Measure and mix ingredients in cooking activities
- Enjoy sensory experiences

Social Studies/Geography

Children will have the opportunity to:

- See who they are in the larger world around them
- Love and help other people
- Perceive how others feel (lonely, angry, happy, etc.)
- Follow the rules of the classroom and school
- Play and work with and respect other children and adults
- Communicate verbally more proficiently
- Become more aware of helpers in our community (police, doctor, etc.)
- Seek out involvement in a group
- Understand that maps can represent his/her surroundings (Mcp.S1.1)
- Name the town or city they live in (Mcp.S2.1)
- Know parents' first and last names/Identify and name members of their family
- Uses simple geographic thinking (Mcp.S2.2)
- Read familiar signs from society (STOP, EXIT, HANDICAPPED, etc.) (McP.S4.1)
- Know how people affect the environment in positive and negative ways (litter/pollution, recycling, picking up litter) (McP.S4.1)
- Know natural features of the environment (hills, mountains, oceans, rivers) (McP.S4.2)
- Accept that God made the world and everything in it.

Music

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Praise God through song and dance
- Participate in music opportunities daily (McP.S7.1)
- Enjoy music

- Clap/tap to a beat produced by a teachers (Mcp.S2.1)
- Know that music comes from different places and different periods of time (Mcp.S7.2)
- Move creatively to music
- Perform musical fingerplays (McP.S1.1)
- Enjoy keeping rhythm using instruments (McP.S2.1)
- Memorize songs-religious and secular (McPp.S1.2)
- Sings invented songs (McP.S1.2)
- Play musical games/dances
- Discern between loud and soft, fast and slow, high and low, a variety of sounds (e.g., musical instruments, sounds in nature) (McP.S4.1)
- Use scarves, rhythm sticks, and bean bags to practice rhythm and movement

Art

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Learn that God is the Master Artist
- Enjoy creating a “masterpiece” of their own
- Learn various elements and principles of art (line, shape, color, space, texture, value, form, pattern, movement) (McP.S1.1)
- Identify different textures (McP.S.1)
- Create 2D and 3D art projects (McP.S1.2)
- Become more proficient when using various media (crayons, markers, oil pastels, chalk, brushes, etc.) (McP.S1.3)
- Mix colors to make new colors and can name basic colors (McP.S1.4)
- Share artwork with the community through art shows and exhibits, and to the world using www.artsonia.com (McP.S4.1)
- Know that artwork is present in stories as illustrations (McP.S4.2)
- Appreciate their artwork and the artwork of others (McP.S5.1)
- Follow a plan for doing certain projects (McP.S5.1)
- Be creative in open-ended art projects
- Add more and more details to their artwork
- Draw a self-portrait
- Express their feelings in their artwork (McP.S5.1)