

# **What Will My Child Learn In Preschool?**

## **Children's Discovery Center Weekday School**

This is the question most often asked by parents of young children. Research has shown that young children learn best through active, hands-on experiences. In other words, children learn by doing. Play provides the foundation for academic learning.

Children learn through the different centers in the classroom, and are encouraged to design, build, investigate, discover, and learn new ideas. They develop independence, initiative, and decision-making skills, as well as, language and social skills by interacting with other children.

### **Our Goal**

Children's Discovery Center's goal is to help children become independent, self-confident, enthusiastic, and inquisitive learners. They are encouraged to think for themselves, make decisions, develop problem-solving skills, and communicate their ideas.

Teachers organize and structure the environment to support specific educational goals. Children do not spend all day in structured activities and drill and practice. They do not sit at a table all day doing worksheets. Instead, each child will be provided a solid foundation for academics by emphasizing concepts and process, along with the active manipulation of relevant concrete materials and interactive experiences. Children need to get their hands on stuff and manipulate it themselves. They need to see it, touch it, smell it, taste it, hear it, and feel it. Children are motivated to learn by their desire to make sense of their world. For children to understand and remember what they have learned, it must be meaningful and interesting to them.

Open-ended activities foster creativity, risk taking, and trying out new ideas. Children must be allowed to be in control and to make choices. The teacher prepares the environment so it provides stimulating, challenging activities. They are constantly adding additional challenges to push children's thinking.

When playing in learning centers, young children:

- make choices
- develop problem solving skills
- expand oral language
- enhance creative abilities
- develop social skills
- develop responsibility
- learn how to make plans and carry them to completion....developing persistence
- learn cooperation
- develop longer attention spans
- develop an understanding of symbols as they move from concrete to abstract
- enhance their self-image
- experience integrated learning as they use all areas of the curriculum in meaningful ways
- build gross and fine motor skills
- build a foundation for future learning
- learn to control their own behavior

Children develop at very different rates, but they all follow predictable patterns in stages and sequence of development. Development proceeds from simple to complex and from general to specific. Learning proceeds from concrete to abstract.

Development cannot be taught or hurried but can be guided and encouraged. Intellectual, social-emotional, and physical development is intricately interwoven. It is important to develop a well-rounded child with experiences in all areas.

## **Social-Emotional Development**

To be successful in school and in life, children must be able to express and control their feelings, they must be able to exert self-control when frustrated and be able to listen, follow directions, share, take turns, carry out basic routines without supervision, and be able to read non-verbal cues such as the sound in a teacher or child's voice or the look on their face in conjunction with what is being said. Children must learn to advocate for themselves, putting feelings into words and using language to discuss activities, events and feelings.

We feel this is very important and is something we work on every day. Children gain confidence and self-esteem as they become more independent. Social emotional competencies such as sensitivity to the feelings of others, kindness, patience, and cooperation are achieved through interactions with other children, teachers, and the environment.

## **Cognitive Development**

Cognitive development not only includes the three R's—Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic—but helping children learn how to learn by solving problems, asking questions, and using words to describe their ideas, observations, and feelings.

This is the area that gets the most interest from an academic perspective, but the development of the other areas is just as important if not more important for young children. Once a child gets to Kindergarten and beyond, the cognitive area is basically the only area that is focused on in school. If they do not develop socially, emotionally, and physically in preschool or at home, school can be very difficult for a child no matter how smart they are.

## **Reading**

Reading is a part of a complex continuum that begins with baby talk and scribbles and culminates in a child with a rich vocabulary and knowledge of the world. Parents, children, and teachers feel the most pressure on making sure a child is reading when they go to kindergarten.

CDC focuses on reading readiness. This provides children with the foundation, skills, and attitude they need to be successful readers in the future. There are many, many skills needed before a child is ready to read. These are the skills we focus on daily. Many of our children are already reading, many will be reading before they leave, but all will leave here being ready to read.

## **Math**

Mathematics challenges children to explore ideas about patterns and relationships, order and predictability, logic and meaning. Children learn to organize their world by recognizing patterns and, gradually, use patterns as a strategy for problem solving, forming generalizations and developing concepts of number, operation, shape, and space. Math is a continuous process, and children move from concrete experiences to visual, symbol, and, finally, abstract activities.

## **Science**

Young children are natural scientists. Science taps into the natural curiosity children have about the world around them. Through science, children learn to observe, question, explore, experiment, predict, and solve problems. Science is the process of finding out about the world, asking questions, and learning to solve problems.

Children’s Discovery Center Weekday School’s staff follows written curriculum guidelines. These guidelines are based on the Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Kindergarten written by the Texas Education Agency, as well as, the educational guidelines written by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Our staff not only has experience, they have education backgrounds and training with young children.

We are confident that CDC provides a strong foundation for our children and prepares them for kindergarten in all areas of development in a loving environment.

I believe the most important thing we can give a child is a “Love for Learning,” and I know all children leave the safety and security of the CDC family ready for the next chapter.

Please email [Natalie Garcia](#), Director of CDC, with any additional questions regarding the curriculum.