



The Ridge Hill School of Norwell / FB: The Ridge Hill School of Norwell

Preschool Curriculum

At Ridge Hill School, it is our goal to prepare your child for a positive, nurturing and loving learning experience. Every child is different, with different strengths and weaknesses, so our Preschool teachers continuously communicate with the parents of each child so that they are aware of their child's strengths and weaknesses. Our objectives are to help better prepare your child emotionally, socially and academically in a positive, nurturing environment. We will be working together to inspire, encourage and educate your children. Written progress reports are sent home twice per year and parents are invited to request to meet with us regarding their report.

The following are skills your children have started to and will continue to learn this year in preschool. We base our curriculum off of an NAEYC based The Complete Daily Curriculum.

Developmental Domains

Whole child instruction supports the concept that your child is developing in several areas or domains simultaneously and each area of development is equally important to your child.

Social and Emotional well being of the child fuels the intellect. Early brain development research states that social and emotional development and cognitive development work hand in hand. A child cannot learn when his or her emotional and social well being are threatened.

There are 4 developmental domains:

Cognitive: Centers on the mind and how works as children develop and learn

Physical: Development of the body

Social: Centers on the developmental skills for interacting with others

Emotional: Centers on the development of self esteem and self control.

Subject Areas

Preschool children are learning math, science, social studies, reading (language) music, engineering and art. For example through block play children are learning

1. math: geometry, names of shapes
2. Children are learning science as they explore balance and gravity
3. Children are learning social skills and language as they cooperate and communicate with one another in a joint effort to build towers, castles or forts.

Curriculum Integration

We teach based on an integrated curriculum approach. Children will participate in a variety of integrated experiences, all the ways in which they are intelligent are enhanced. We promote a theme-based project-based approach to learning. With a centralized theme we use for our daily activities children can make connections to the world they live in and to the world which we want them to learn.

Morning Message/Calendar

Morning Message relates to the theme of the day or the weekly theme. During calendar we talk about the days of the week, the month, the year, today/tomorrow/yesterday, and count the days in the month. This is also an important time for language development.

Journal Time

Each child will have finished 2 journals by the end of the year. These are blank paged journals that we use for specific theme based activities. For example: they might draw a dinosaur, a picture of yourself, a fall picture and much more.

Science

One of the newer educational terms that we see frequently in the news is STEM education. But what exactly is Stem education and is it appropriate for preschool children.

Stem is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM education, a term initiated by the National Science Foundation refers to an educational approach which integrates more than one of these disciplines. STEM may seem like a lofty subject matter for preschool children but in reality preschoolers spontaneously engage in STEM activities indoors and out on a regular basis. With a little guidance from us we can enhance children's opportunities to engage in STEM learning and develop their critical thinking.

While building with blocks children can build bridges and ramps, incorporating engineering and math. Outdoors children could help solve the problem of getting water to a garden to help a plant grow, drawing on their science and engineering knowledge.

Reading Readiness/ HWT

Each week we highlight a Letter of the Week. We teach using the HWT curriculum and Mat Man is part of our teaching tools to help children learn how to form their letters. We continuously work on fine motor skills, pencil grip and guide children through these processes. We use an Alpha Tale story curriculum for each letter. Listening to stories, poems, finger plays are all tools to engage children to learn letter sounds and write letters. HWT wooden pieces allow children to practice making letters on the floor.

Math

We teach math using manipulatives, sorting, graphing, estimating, number recognition and writing. Calendar time and counting the days in the month and beyond are part of math learning.

Art/Directed Art

Directed art is taught in a small group. This allows children to build on their fine motor skills, following multi step directions and have an appreciation of their own art work.

Art is given to children on a daily basis with a variety of choices from cutting, gluing, tearing, painting, coloring, creating all images in their own way. Teachers guide children but do not tell them how to make the activity. They use their own creative way to create their art. For example their pumpkin might have 6 eyes, 3 noses and a mouth all in different areas.. (not looking like a perfect pumpkin)

Weekly Update/Shutterfly Pictures

Each week you will receive a weekly update that explores our curriculum for the week from small group activities, our theme and large group activities. This is a valuable tool to facilitate conversations with your child in your home setting. Weekly pictures of your child's day are uploaded for your enjoyment.

Team Building/Life Skills

As a team of teachers we feel it is important for all children to participate in team activities. Getting along with others, taking turns, listening to one another are skills that they will carry with them for a lifetime. Learning this skill at a young age will serve them well going forward.

Self Help Skills

Throughout the year we will encourage your child and guide them with several self help skills for example: opening their snack, getting their jacket, putting away their lunch or snack box.