

Robert C. Parker School
Core Curriculum Summary

Pre K Three and Four-Year-Old Classes

All aspects of the curriculum are related to the full development of a child, and as such are intertwined in a cohesive manner throughout the day in a way that is appropriate to the children's ages and through thematic explorations. Just a few examples of themes that Pre K children explore are: gifts from the Earth, the harvest feast, visiting the doctor, winter changes, Our School Habitat: meadow, woods, and creek, and going to the grocery store. Added to those, for four-year-olds: pizza restaurant, the post office, the planets and space exploration, wind, birds.

Language Arts

Reading, writing, listening and oral language are the core of the language arts curriculum. Art projects, tactile materials, and small motor manipulatives are available daily to develop and strengthen the fine motor skills necessary for writing. In addition, writing materials are available for the children's use throughout the classroom. We write and illustrate class books that become a cherished reading choice. Reading opportunities are available in the dress up area, block corner, science corner, and through class made charts and labels throughout the room. Children also have access to a library corner and are read to individually, in small groups, and during story time each day. Children also visit in the **library** for story time with our librarian on a weekly basis.

We sing songs and read poems to further enhance the children's exposure to language. Practice in oral language occurs throughout the day as children play and interact with each other, the adults in the classroom and their class environment. We often perform a song or poem at weekly all-school assemblies. Listening skills are fostered through play situations, question and answer times, and morning meetings.

Math

The math curriculum is designed to give children exposure to the basic math elements of size, number, grouping, patterns, sorting, length, weight, height, classification and shape recognition. This is accomplished by providing hands on experience with real materials. These materials include various types of building blocks, scales and measuring tools. Children are given time to explore these materials and through their exploration gain a greater understanding of early math concepts. Whole group activities such as measuring and charting help to further expose children to math concepts.

Science

The science curriculum is designed to allow for observation and exploration of materials both in the classroom and in the outdoor environment. Science activities are available daily, and children are encouraged to ask questions, explore

different materials, make predictions, and become more aware of the world around them. Through hands on activities, children are exposed to the properties solids, liquids and semi liquids. They observe changes in their outdoor environment as we walk the trails at school during all seasons. Magnifying glasses, scales, books, and water tables are some of the instruments available for the children to use.

Social Studies

Children are questioning who they are and how they fit into the world around them. Through the social studies curriculum, the children explore occupations, cultures, likes and differences, and role-play. Throughout the day, children are also learning the social skills necessary to function in society.

Art

Art activities are a daily part of the classroom. Through art, children are given an avenue for self-expression while developing the fine motor skills necessary for writing to develop. At the same time, children are exposed to math and science concepts. Each day, children have an opportunity to draw, paint and/or glue.

Physical Education

Large motor development is the focus of the physical education curriculum. Children have the opportunity to run, climb, balance, and jump daily during outdoor play and gym time to allow for maximum large muscle development. Non-competitive, cooperative group games are also played both outside and in the gym.

Music and Movement

Music and movement are woven into our daily activities through songs, dance, rhythm instruments, and choral recitation. The class visits the music room for activities with our music teacher each week.

Social Responsibility

We help children gain an understanding of themselves in relationship to others in their environment through buddies, classroom guests, field trips, celebrations and culture studies, recycling, and worm composting.

Social and Emotional Development

We provide a safe and nurturing environment where children are respected and accepted for who they are. The physical space of the classroom as well as a schedule incorporating flexible time blocks, give children the opportunity to:

- Engage in positive and appropriate peer interactions
- Gain an understanding of another's point of view
- Recognize and celebrate the differences and similarities among us
- Grow and develop at their individual rates
- Transfer trust from adults in their home to those in a school setting