



Pre-K “Eagles” Programming For children aged 4-5 year olds

The Pre-K program at Discovery is for four and five year old children who will be attending Kindergarten the following year. Developmentally appropriate activities are offered to help them explore and discover the environment around them. The goal is to help ensure that children have the social, emotional, and pre-academic skills to be successful not only in Kindergarten, but in life as well.

Social / Emotional Development: Children need to be able to manage their own behavior in a group setting to be successful in school. Managing conflict with peers and getting needs met in age-appropriate ways is an important component of early childhood education. Learning how to follow directions, take turns, wait in line, and listen to others are skills practiced on daily basis. Developing problem-solving skills, learning to ask questions, and fostering a love of learning are planned for as well. Children are encouraged to develop and utilize skills that help them be independent, and to make choices within the classroom environment. Making transitions between home and school is an important milestone to achieve, as well as developing relationships with adults outside the home.

Language Development: Enhanced vocabulary created by hands-on experiences, a print-rich environment, daily story time, and the utilization of children’s interests blend together to create a positive language-development experience. Large group gathering times include singing, dancing, finger plays, and opportunities for back and forth conversations. Dramatic play areas promote conversational skill-building, as well as cooperation and collaboration. Children are encouraged to listen to one another, as well as to adults - to show respect and give each person their time to be heard.

Physical Development: Each day brings opportunities for children to run, play, and climb in the outdoor environment. Throwing, catching and kicking balls, trikes and scooters, and skill-building games are available. Hopping, skipping, stretching, and reaching are incorporated into indoor activities as well. Small manipulatives (e.g. legos) and blocks, as well as scissors, glue, and a variety of writing utensils and paper strengthen fine motor muscles as well as provide time to create, experiment, and play with others in a relaxed environment.

Creative Arts: Creative expression with a variety of materials is the goal of Discovery’s art program. Children are introduced to materials and encouraged to explore, touch, and experience art. Learning the language of art is modeled as they talk about their art and the art of their peers. Music and dancing are essential to the program as well. Dance and movement encourage the development of large muscle skills as well as a sense of rhythm, and promote expressive movement and music appreciation.

Cognitive Development: Academic content is incorporated into all areas of the day within a play-based environment. Staff use descriptive language when labeling, including color, shape, and placement vocabulary. Pre-math skills and language are introduced throughout the year to develop one-to-one correspondence, pattern recognition, size and shape discrimination, and number recognition. Science concepts are introduced that utilize activities incorporating the physical and natural world. The art of inquiry, and teaching children to ask questions and problem solve are practiced. As children start recognizing their names and those of their friends, an interest in letters develops naturally.