



Pre-School “Mountain Lion” Programming For children aged 3-4 year olds

The Pre-school program at Discovery is designed for three and four year olds, children 2 years out from Kindergarten. Developmentally appropriate activities are offered to help them explore and discover the environment around them. Social skills necessary for success in school are also modeled and practiced as children learn to take turns, share, and resolve conflict in appropriate ways.

Social / Emotional Development: Managing conflict with peers and getting needs met in age-appropriate ways are important components of early childhood education. At this age, children are starting to play more cooperatively, but still lack the cognitive ability to see other points of view than their own. Children are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills, 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: Three and four year olds love to share information. Stories, poetry, sharing, and dramatic play enrich a child’s emerging vocabulary. Language and cognitive concepts are learned through singing, finger plays, and action songs. Projects or themes are used throughout the school year and related vocabulary is defined, discussed, and frequently used. Dramatic play areas provide much opportunity for practicing conversation and collaboration skills. Children are encouraged to use their imaginations and explore the world of make believe.

Physical Development: Each day brings opportunities for children to run, play, and climb in the outdoor environment. Activities that include hopping, skipping, jumping, and stretching are incorporated into lesson plans, as well as balls, balance beams, and parachutes. Development of fine motor skills is also an intentional part of the curriculum. Cutting, gluing, lacing, writing with a pencil, drawing, and painting are familiar activities for children this age. Manipulatives offer additional opportunities for strengthening fingers and hands, as well as creative thinking and problem solving.

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. 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 necessary to a good sense of balance.

Cognitive Development: Pre-math, pre-writing, and pre-literacy activities are introduced through learning centers and hands-on learning materials. Children explore and play with materials that introduce concepts like colors and shapes, encourage discrimination and observation skills, and practice one-to-one correspondence. Blocks, books, drawing materials, puzzles, and manipulatives provide opportunities to make choices as well learn cause and effect. Scribbling turns to practice with “writing”. Recognizing their printed names and the letters in their names and in their friend’s names is an important pre-reading skill.

Self Help Skills: Preschoolers are learning to take care of their personal needs. They start learning to be responsible for their belongings. Good health habits such as hand washing, eating healthy foods, and exercising are incorporated into the daily routine.