



The Good Shepherd School

The Extended Pre-K Program at Good Shepherd School **Mondays & Friday, 8:45am-12:00pm** **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:45-3:00pm**

Caring for others, cooperation, responsibility, independence, and respect for others have been established as the core values of Good Shepherd School. We strive to incorporate these values into our daily school environment and curriculum. The Good Shepherd extended pre-k program follows the same curriculum as the Good Shepherd morning pre-k program. Readiness skills, creativity, socialization, and imagination are emphasized using games, social studies, science explorations, and additional activities that encourage visual and auditory perception and discrimination. The academic focus on letter recognition and the alphabetic principle comes to life through Letter of the Week studies and activities. Additional science, technology, drama, and foreign language skills are introduced and expanded upon during the three afternoon sessions of the extended pre-k program.

I. To foster the development of a positive self-concept and a positive attitude toward school, the children will be encouraged to:

- show pride in accomplishments and products created.
- exhibit confidence in their own abilities.
- acquire developmentally appropriate academic readiness and social skills through guided group instruction and academic activities and supervised interaction and play with peers.

II. To nurture independence and self-control, encouraging an increased awareness of the relationship between freedom and responsibility, the children will be encouraged to:

- use appropriate expressions of positive and negative feelings.
- separate from family without distress while adjusting to new situations.
- work cooperatively within a daily routine and follow and anticipate a daily schedule.
- develop attention skills and the ability to follow multi-step directions.
- recognize, don, snap, button and zip their own clothing.
- show responsibility for personal possessions.
- maintain interest in a play activity without adult encouragement.
- use materials and equipment appropriately.
- ask for assistance when necessary.

III. To guide the development of social skills in a caring and nurturing atmosphere, the children will be encouraged to:

- participate in group and individual experiences and discussions.
- use and respond to appropriate social cues and expressions, including “please,” “thank you,” “let’s,” “excuse me,” and “I’m sorry.”

- role play and pretend in order to discover successful interactions.
- develop an awareness of the world around us and our responsibility to it.
- play cooperatively, interact with peers, take turns, and listen while others are speaking.
- accept and respect individual differences and the feelings and needs of others.
- develop the ability to lead and to follow.
- respond positively to adult guidance and direction.

IV. To inspire a developmentally appropriate understanding of God and His love, the children will be encouraged to:

- participate in a weekly chapel service that includes prayers, stories, songs, and seasonal activities.
- learn prayers to be said before snack and lunch.
- participate in a Christmas service that expresses the importance of the birth of Jesus.
- praise God through song, prayer, and stories.

V. To encourage children to think, reason, question and experiment while developing problem-solving skills and the ability to think critically, the children will be encouraged to:

- listen critically to literature and poetry, laying the foundation for a love of books, learning, and reading.
- participate in scientific “hands-on” experiences designed to arouse and expand natural curiosities.
- detect patterns and compare lengths, sizes, numbers, and amounts.
- distinguish between fantasy and reality.
- anticipate the consequences of simple actions.
- use imagination to explore in independent and teacher-directed activities.
- understand and anticipate humor, experimenting with silly language, movements, and situations.

VI. To further language development while enhancing receptive and expressive language and vocabulary, the children will be encouraged to:

- participate in small and large group discussions.
- recall and describe events and stories.
- listen to, participate in, and repeat finger plays, songs, poems, literature, and class discussions.
- speak clearly, articulate, and use complete sentences and proper pronouns.
- incorporate verbal directions into play activities.
- demonstrate an understanding and use of a wide range of words in meaningful context.
- use language to stimulate judgment, comparisons, and evaluations.
- learn their addresses, phone numbers, and birthdates.
- modulate their voices for indoor and outdoor activities.

VII. To develop, refine, and strengthen small motor and large motor skills, the children will be encouraged to:

A. Fine Motor:

The children will continue to develop and improve awareness of left to right progression, finger manipulation, and hand-eye coordination by having the opportunity to:

- roll, squeeze, poke, and mold play dough.
- color within the lines, copy, and trace.
- string beads
- imitate finger plays.
- manipulate puzzles, blocks, toys, and clothing.
- handle scissors, pencils, crayons, markers, and paint brushes.
- establish left or right dominance when printing and/or drawing.

B. Gross Motor:

The children will strengthen muscles and improve balance and coordination by having the opportunity to:

- safely utilize indoor and outdoor play equipment.
- participate in a weekly Creative Movement class and other structured movement experiences.
- practice the integration of muscles and rhythm.
- play games requiring movement, balance, and coordination.
- refine their ability to run, hop, skip, crawl, jump, gallop, tip-toe, kick a ball, balance, throw, and ride.

VIII. To develop sound health, safety, and nutritional practices, the children will be encouraged to:

- alert teachers and control needs relating to toileting.
- clean spills and put away materials with direction.
- practice a healthy diet, adequate exercise and rest, cleanliness, and appropriate care of teeth.

IX. To foster individual creative, artistic, and musical expression, the children will be encouraged to:

- participate in weekly art, drama, and music classes.
- utilize provided materials that will allow them to express feelings and responses that may be difficult to verbalize.
- respond to music by listening, singing, moving, playing, clapping, and creating.
- increase their awareness of melody, rhythm, and tempo.
- appreciate masterpieces of the art world by discussing, imitating, copying, and imagining.
- dramatize "action songs," poetry, and stories.
- perform plays for an audience.

- experiment with primary and secondary colors and a variety of artistic textures and tools.
- contribute original ideas to classroom activities and discussions.
- exhibit flexibility in play and in the creation of products.
- participate in Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring pageants.

X. Reading, pre-reading, mathematics, social studies, and science are presented to Good Shepherd students within a developmentally appropriate academic framework. To develop the skills needed for literacy and to give students in our extended pre-k program a solid foundation for the more structured academics of elementary school, proficiency is promoted in the following areas:

- **Reading:** Extended Pre-K students learn the alphabet, beginning letter sounds, and common rhymes and onsets. They practice opposites, listening and memorization skills, basic sequencing, simple classification, word recognition and creative writing. Following the published Learning Without Tears program, students learn how to follow directions, form letters, recognize patterns and predict outcomes. Phonemic awareness and visual and auditory discrimination are important components of the program. An emphasis is given to developing an appreciation for literature and poetry and a love of books.
- **Math:** Extended Pre-K students are provided with concrete experiences to master shape recognition, number recognition, patterning, sequencing to 20, ordination, printing numbers and the calendar. They experiment with measurement, spatial and numerical concepts, size, sets, weight, time, and temperature. They compare and contrast, match, add, subtract, graph and cook.
- **Science:** Extended Pre-K students learn to observe, experiment, and predict using their senses indoors and out. They learn and review basic facts about plants, animals, weather, magnets, flotation, planets, sky, water, and the seasons.
- **Social Studies:** Extended Pre-K students continue to learn about themselves and their culture. They explore the family, family roles, peers, the community, and geography. They learn to understand and respect themselves in relation to others.
- **Library:** Extended Pre-K students are introduced to basic library skills and learn about books, including what an author is, the different types of books (fiction/non-fiction), and the parts of a book (beginning/middle/end). A love of reading will be nurtured both in the classroom and during the weekly Library special time.

- **Classroom Cooking:** Extended Pre-K students learn to follow recipe directions to create delicious snacks. The recipes are collected in individual cookbooks to be taken home at the end of the year.
- **Spanish:** Using the Spanish language, Extended Pre-K students learn to greet one another, count, name colors, name and identify animals and speak basic phrases.

Typical Daily Schedule in the Extended Pre-K Program:

Arrival, Free Play, and Individualized Activities
Circle Time
Directed Activity / Free Play
Special
Outdoor Play
Snack
Directed Activity / Free Play
SmartBoard Activities
Story Time/Show and Tell
<i>Afternoon:</i>
Science
Spanish
Yoga or Movement Activity
Drama

Possible Academic Units in the Extended Pre-K Program:

- All About Me
- Seasons and Holidays
- Dinosaurs
- Animals in Winter
- Penguins of Antarctica
- Celebrating our Presidents
- Kingdom of Kindness
- On the Loose with Dr. Seuss
- Nutrition and Dental Health
- Investigating Insects
- Animal Life Cycles – From Egg to Chicken
- Maryland, My Maryland

Special Classes for Extended Pre-K Students:

- Music
- Art
- Chapel
- Creative Movement

- Library