



# The Good Shepherd School

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## Three-Year Old Programs at Good Shepherd School

- **3-Day Threes (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8:45am-12:00pm)**
- **5-Day Threes (Monday-Friday, 8:45am-12:00pm)**

*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 three-year-old program offers children the opportunity to learn through active, playful involvement while promoting academic readiness skills, socialization, creativity, and the idea that learning can be fun. Using a thematic approach, the three year-old classes explore topics relevant to the world around them.*

### **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 with increased ease.
- work cooperatively within a daily routine and follow a daily schedule.
- develop attention skills and the ability to follow simple directions.
- don, snap, button and zip their own clothing.
- show responsibility for personal possessions.
- adjust with increased ease to new situations.
- 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 “hello,” “good-bye,” “please,” and “thank you.”
- pretend and role play to discover successful interactions.

- 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 the ability to follow.
- respond positively to guidance and direction.

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

- 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 to literature and poetry for meaning to lay the foundation for a love of books and reading.
- participate in scientific “hands-on” experiences designed to arouse and expand natural curiosities.
- detect patterns and compare sizes 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 experiment with humor.

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

- recall and describe events and stories.
- listen to, participate in, and repeat finger plays, songs, poems, and literature.
- improve articulation and begin to use complete sentences.
- play with minimal adult direction.
- expand their understanding and use of a wide range of words in meaningful context.
- recognize their full names, body parts, and gender.
- modulate their voices for indoor and outdoor activities.
- sequence events from literature and from daily 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.
- paint with fingers and at the easel.
- lace cards and string beads.

- manipulate simple puzzles, blocks, toys, and clothing.
- imitate finger plays.
- handle scissors, crayons and brushes.

**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, crawl, jump, tip-toe, balance, throw, and ride.

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

- alert teachers and control needs related to toileting.
- clean spills and put away materials with direction.

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

- Participate in weekly art 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.
- dramatize “action songs,” poetry and stories.
- 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 a spring pageant.

**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 three-year-old programs a solid foundation for the more structured academics of elementary school, proficiency is promoted in the following areas:**

- **Reading:** Three-year-old children are exposed to the alphabet, sound discrimination, and rhyming. They practice opposites, listening and memorization skills, basic sequencing, simple classification, and name recognition. They learn to follow directions, recognize patterns, and predict outcomes. Exposure to 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:** Three-year-old children are provided with concrete experiences with shapes, numbers, counting, sequencing, ordination and the calendar. They experiment with measurement, spatial concepts and size. They compare and contrast, match and cook.
- **Science:** Three-year-old children learn to observe, experiment and predict using their senses both indoors and out. They learn and review basic facts about plants, animals, weather and the seasons.
- **Social Studies:** Three-year-old children continue to learn about themselves and their culture. They explore the family, family roles, peers and the community around them. They learn to understand and respect themselves in relation to others.

***Typical Daily Schedule in the Three-Year-Old Program:***

Arrival and Free Play
Circle Time
Specials
Bathroom Break
Snack
Outside Play
Directed Activity or Project
Bathroom Break
Book Time
Dismissal

***Possible Academic Units in the Three-Year-Old Programs:***

- All About Me
- Friends and Family
- Fall – Apples, Pumpkins, Farm, Fall Holidays
- Winter Holidays
- Animals in Winter
- Dinosaurs
- Five Senses
- Zoo Animals
- Spring – Plants and Seeds, Weather, Insects, Spring Holidays

***Special Classes for Three-Year-Old Students:***

- Music
- Art

- Chapel
- Creative Movement
- Library