



## Lollipop Tree Pre-Kindergarten Old Program Overview

The Pre-Kindergarten program at Lollipop Tree Nursery School expands on the skills and learning experiences that have been introduced in the 2, 3, and 4 year old classrooms. It is designed to meet the educational needs of children who will be five by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. Our Pre-K children enjoy a program that is designed to balance free play and social interaction with the flexible structure of an educational preschool. This balance helps us to effectively prepare our children for kindergarten.

We believe that children learn through play. The Pre-K classroom at Lollipop Tree has play centers featuring building blocks, tables for puzzles and games, a science and math center and plenty of space for dramatic play and dress up. Daily free play allows the children to explore these areas and encourages independence, creative thinking and sociability. We also have a spacious, fully equipped gym room where the children are free to run, climb and tumble. Outside there is a large play area with sand, a play scape with swings and a hard top bike area with all types of riding toys.

During the more structured part of the day the Pre-K program offers a variety of learning experiences. Our theme based curriculum allows us to focus on a particular subject using art projects, dry boards, stories, games and music to enhance our subject. We also include science experiments, nature walks, social studies, math games and cooking in our program. This helps us to keep the children interested and excited about learning. A few of the main units we offer include Africa, Australia, Eric Carle, Outer Space and Growing Things. Also included is kindergarten readiness in language, reading and the continuation of the alphabet, numbers and colors through a wide variety of media. The children will also be exposed to charting words, making big books and exposure to print. We celebrate seasons, follow the changes in the daily weather and count our way to the 100<sup>th</sup> day! We also celebrate holidays and birthdays.

The main focus of the Pre-K program is to prepare the children for kindergarten. Language, developing good listening skills, following directions and taking turns are all learned skills that are reinforced each day. The children learn to be caring and respectful of others at the same time they gain confidence, increase their understanding of the world around them and improve their cognitive skills.

We offer a gymnastics and music program each month along with a library program every other month. These programs give the children the opportunity to learn with trained professionals other than their classroom teachers. We also offer an after school Spanish enrichment program as well as "Wizards" which is a science and math enrichment. The Pre-K program also includes field trips to The Recycle Center, Science Center. These field trips are in conjunction with our units. In May, we hold a special Mother's Day Tea and in June we have our Pre-K graduation.

We try to make each day at Lollipop Tree an adventure, a challenge and a unique opportunity to learn and grow.

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