

Lollipop Tree Pre-Kindergarten Program Overview

The Pre-Kindergarten program at Lollipop Tree Nursery School expands on the skills and learning experiences introduced in the infant program, Tiny 2's, 2's, 3's and 4 year old classrooms. It is designed to meet the educational needs of children who will be five years old by December 31st of the current school year.

Through play, challenging classroom activities, exploration and self-discovery Pre-K children will gain confidence, be challenged academically, become more independent and receive additional social and emotional support as they prepare for kindergarten.

We believe children learn through play. The Pre-K classroom at Lollipop Tree has play centers featuring building blocks, tables for puzzles and games, an art center, 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, jump, climb and tumble. Outside there is a large play area with sand, a play scape with and a 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. Using a theme-based curriculum we focus and explore subject matters using art projects, stories, games, music, cooking and more. We incorporate STEM concepts and activities into our daily routines. Science experiments, nature walks, social studies, math games and cooking activities enhance the learning experience. This keeps the children engaged, 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 study of the alphabet, numbers and colors through a variety of media. Children will also be exposed to charting words, journal writing and exposure to print. We celebrate seasons, follow changes in daily weather and count our way to the 100th day of school. We will celebrate each child's birthday.

We are preparing for Kindergarten each day. We focus on language & cognitive development, gross motor & fine motor skills, being good listeners, following directions, sharing & cooperating, teamwork and taking turns. The children learn to be caring and respectful of others at the same time gaining confidence as they increase their understanding of the world around them.

We have a monthly music and gymnastic program. Additional afternoon enrichment programs include Spanish, Cooking, Art, Nature, Martial Arts, a math and science program called "Wizards" and much more. The Pre-K program also includes field trips to Auerfarm and Westmoor Park. These field trips work in conjunction with our units. In May, we hold a special Mother's Day Tea and in June we have our Pre-K graduation ceremony.

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

**Lollipop Tree Nursery School
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