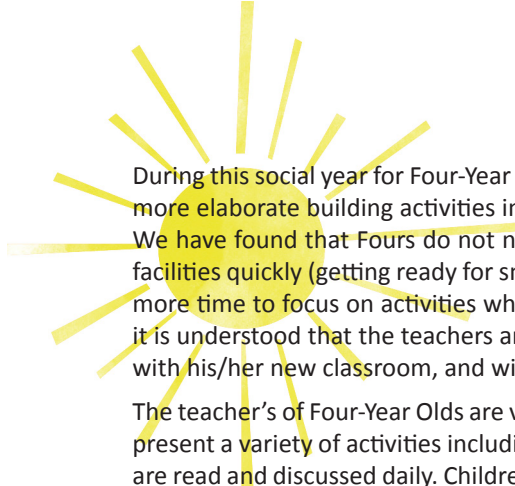


Four-Year Olds



During this social year for Four-Year Olds they eagerly seek other children to help incorporate dramatic play and make up more elaborate building activities in a group. Greater emphasis is given to group accommodation and problem-solving. We have found that Fours do not need the shortened day to adjust to preschool. The children get acquainted with the facilities quickly (getting ready for snack, where to go for music, where to go to the playground) which gives the teachers more time to focus on activities which benefit four year olds. Of course, all children react to new situations differently; it is understood that the teachers and staff will work very hard to make sure that your child has a successful experience with his/her new classroom, and will make any accommodations to ensure this.

The teachers of Four-Year Olds are very aware of their responsibility to prepare many of the Fours for kindergarten. They present a variety of activities including writing, phonics, cutting, fine motor skills, and literacy and math exercises. Books are read and discussed daily. Children dictate and illustrate stories, make graphs, lists, and comparisons. Rote knowledge of numbers and letters is replaced with real concepts that they children use in varied situations. Name recognition is emphasized as well as simple words that they request like “Mom”, “Dad”, “Love”. Children are encouraged to visit the writing table and the manipulative table if they do not already spend time there. All of the activities presented by the teachers are carefully evaluated for a positive educational outcome that can be incorporated into child’s play while giving them lots of practice of important skills.

While some curriculum “themes” will be the same as for the Threes, much greater factual information is shared. All classes observe the butterflies in the classrooms, but the Fours will learn about symmetry, the stages of growth, conditions needed for the pupa to emerge, etc. Field trips support the curriculum, and children will visit area parks, listen to naturalists, observe wildlife, etc. We continue to offer a developmentally appropriate, hands-on curriculum with many activities to appeal to varied learning styles, and you will find that your child will participate more fully in all of the classroom centers.

A Typical Four-Year Old’s Day

9:15-9:45 am Large & Small Group	Welcome/Free play Free choice, center based play, & individual creative expression, child-initiated activities. Includes easel, games, manipulatives, blocks, writing center, media table, computer, library, puppets and dramatic play
9:45-10:10 am Large Group	Circle Time Jobs, calendar, weather, counting, large group games, music and movement books/stories, letter/ word/number/math skill building, activity choice discussion
10:10-10:45 am Large & Small Group Individual	Activity Time Art projects, creative expression, small group readiness activities, science experiments, teacher directed, large & small group activities & child initiated small group activities, free choice center based play. Includes activities such as games, manipulatives, blocks, easel, writing center, media table, computer, library, puppets and dramatic play
10:45-11:00 am Large & Small Group Individual	Clean-up Individual and group clean-up
11:00-11:15 am Large Group	Circle Time Letter/number review
11:15-11:30 pm Large & Small Group	Snack/Library Time Hand washing, table setting, Blessing, group seating, independent quiet time reading, discussions about daily activities
11:30-11:55 Large & Small Group	Outdoor Play Child initiated playground activities, creative expression, running, jumping, throwing, swinging, and bike riding. If weather doesn’t permit, outdoor play, indoor play includes play equipment, large and small group games or music/movement.
11:55-12:00 Large Group	Closing Circle & Dismissal Farewell routine and individual dismissal.

