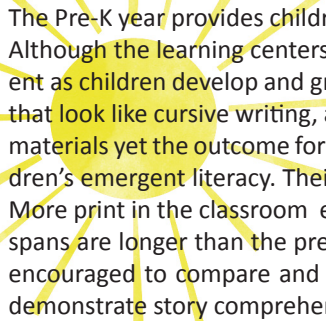


# Pre-K Program



The Pre-K year provides children an opportunity to practice and refine previously learned skills and to master new ones. Although the learning centers and various materials and activities are similar, the possible learning outcomes are different as children develop and grow. A three year old may scribble at the writing table, a four year old may write wavy lines that look like cursive writing, and a five year old may write his name. At each age, the child is using the same center and materials yet the outcome for each age is very different. The Pre-K program continues to support and nurture young children's emergent literacy. Their fine motor coordination is better developed and more suited to beginning writing tasks. More print in the classroom encourages children to dictate and illustrate their own stories. Because children's attention spans are longer than the previous year, more time will be spent discussing the story books that are read. Children are encouraged to compare and contrast stories, make predictions, and answer who, what, where, why questions which demonstrate story comprehension.

New and different curriculum themes will be introduced and explored and be both teacher and child initiated. Five mornings a week together allow more time for deeper exploration of the unit theme as well as more continuity and carry over for more involved projects. Activities involving weight, measurement, and exploration of number concepts to graphing, recording daily temperatures are presented in ways that are meaningful to young children. The class keeps track of the number of days at school to explore numbers beyond twenty. They read numbers in print form and see how numbers build. A big celebration takes place on the 100th day of school where students play number games and share a sample of one hundred items.

In Pre-K, circle time is where most of the academic lessons occur. Children are expected to sit attentively for the duration of 15 minutes to hear job assignments, receive directions for the art project, listen to a story, count the number of children present, identify and graph the daily weather, state the date and day of the week, and share personal experiences. A mini language experience lesson helps to expose children to the alphabet, words and eventually create sentences. Here children also learn about upper and lower case letters, syllables, punctuation marks, common word patterns and basic sight words. Many children begin to make connections to establish them as emergent readers. Parents often report that their child begins to notice print in their environment. Children will observe letters on cereal boxes or familiar words learned at school for the first time.

## A Typical Pre-K's Day

<b>9:15-9:45 am</b> Large & Small Group	<b>Welcome/Free play</b> Free choice, center based play, & individual creative expression, child-initiated activities. Includes games, manipulatives, blocks, easel, writing center, media table, computer, library, puppets and dramatic play
<b>9:45-10:10 am</b> Large Group	<b>Circle Time</b> Jobs, calendar, weather, counting, daily message, large group games, music and movement books/stories, letter/word/number/math skill building, activity choice discussion.
<b>10:10-11:00 am</b> Large & Small Group Individual	<b>Activity Time</b> 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.
<b>11:00-11:15 am</b> Large & Small Group Individual	<b>Clean-up/Library Time</b> Individual and group cleanup, independent quiet time reading, hand washing.
<b>11:15-11:30 am</b> Small group Individual	<b>Snack</b> Table setting, Blessing, group seating, discussions about daily activities.
<b>11:30-11:55 am</b> Large group	<b>Outdoor Play</b> 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.
<b>11:55-12:00 pm</b> Large group	<b>Closing Circle &amp; Dismissal</b> Story, farewell routine and individual dismissal.

