



# Three-Year Olds

Our Three-Year Old curriculum is carefully considered to foster many opportunities for guided discovery and learning. Children learn about themselves, families, seasons, habitats, animal behaviors, pond life, etc and engage in a variety of literature daily through fairy and folk tales, non-fiction, songs, poetry, sequential stories, modern fiction, etc. Opportunities to select and take home books from the lending library are also offered each week.

Teachers of the Threes focus on name/letter recognition, shapes, sounds of language, counting and understanding of number, offering hands-on activities to support all learning. Each child brings his/her own skills, knowledge and experiences to the classroom and we work with each individually and as a group. Because we believe that play is the way children under six learn, creative exploration and play will be the foundation upon which all learning opportunities are built. Children of this age especially enjoy the play-dough table. There, they will freely use imagination while strengthen their little hands as they cut, form and roll the play-dough. They can socialize and laugh, imitate, offer and get new ideas. Play-dough is fun, but is a wonderful activity for acquiring fine motor control, which makes holding and using a pencil easier.

We believe that the Threes Program gently introduces little ones to a social group and new, caring adults. At the beginning of the year, Threes generally make deep connections to the teachers, while they observe each other and play side-by-side. They soon feel comfortable and their natural curiosity enables them to make stronger social connections. Small groups will naturally form in dramatic play, blocks or at the media table as they pour water and share funnels, cups, sieves, etc. Group play encourages extensive language opportunities, and soon they are conversing, negotiating, using make-believe and learning to socialize.

## A Typical Three-Year Old's Day

**9:15-9:30 am**

Large Group  
Small Group

### Welcome/Free play

Free choice, center based play, & individual creative expression, child-initiated activities including manipulatives/games, blocks/floor toys, easel, writing center, media table, workshop, library, and dramatic play.

**9:30-9:45 am**

Large Group

### Circle Time

Gathering activity, attendance, songs, fingerplays, story and discussion of the day's events.

**9:45-10:45 am**

Large Group  
Small Group  
Individual

### Explorative Play, Art, Specials (Thurs.)

Child-initiated play in centers, including manipulatives/games, blocks/floor toys, easel, writing center, media table, workshop, science center, library, listening center, and dramatic play. Teacher-directed large and small group activities in art, readiness activities, science experiments, cooking, music, movement, and sharing God's love.

**10:45-11:10 am**

Small group  
Individual

### Clean-up/Snack

Clean-up song signals time to clean up classroom. Wash hands/bathroom/quiet independent reading time as children listen to music. Table setting, Blessing, group seating, discussions about daily activities.

**11:10-11:40 am**

Small group  
Individual

### Outdoor Play

Child-initiated playground activities, creative expression, running, jumping, throwing, climbing and bike riding. If weather does not permit outdoor play, indoor play includes play equipment, large & small group games or music/movement.

**11:40-12:00 pm**

Large group

### Closing Circle & Dismissal

Story, games, farewell songs, individual dismissal.

