



Winfree Memorial Preschool Four-Year Old Curriculum

The four-year-old program develops both social and academic school readiness skills needed to be successful in Kindergarten. We use Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning which can be viewed online: www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov/documents/foundationblocks.pdf

The teachers introduce specific activities that help the children to develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Creativity and Art: Though process-oriented art and an expanded variety of writing and drawing tools, the children will gain more strength and control of their fine motor skills. They will have daily access to drawing, cutting, and gluing along with other art supplies.

Manipulative Play: Fine motor skills develop through several different stages from sensory awareness to in-hand manipulation and tool-use. These skills are essential for the development of other activities of daily living. As they turn 4, they will be exposed to continually more challenging fine motor tasks such as smaller Legos and more complex puzzles.

Cognitive development: Children will learn to think, explore and problem solve. It is the development of knowledge, skills, problem solving and dispositions, which help children to think about and understand the world around them. Children will gain new knowledge and skills as they problem solve and explore the world around them. Throughout the year the children

will practice skills and concepts such as: writing the upper-case letters of the alphabet, numbers 1-10, and their first and last names. In addition, we will practice graphing, counting, and patterning. They will explore some basic addition as well. Other important skills include solving peer conflict and learning to be independent in self-care.

Sensory Skills: The children will engage in sensory play activities by involving touching, pouring, pinching, sorting and moving actions. They will primarily use their hands to explore, and in doing so, they build upon their fine motor skills that will later be used for writing, buttoning clothes, zipping jackets and tying shoes.

Science is one of the most important subjects a child can learn because of its relevance to our daily lives. These skills help children to generate ideas, make decisions and to use evidence to understand key issues.

Integrating math and science concepts in everyday activities enhances cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development, and thus their overall growth. Skills and concepts that children learn while they are young will expand as they gain experience and knowledge over time. The children will watch things grow, build cities, and learn life cycles, etc. We will use graphs and designs to learn during science exploration.

Group Time: The children will develop listening and speaking skills. They will be challenged to sit and attend for longer periods of time and will demonstrate an increased understanding of language through actions and responses to directions and questions. They will have opportunity to enjoy music activities, singing, and finger plays, along with games and performances and books. They will learn to wait their turn, follow directions, and anticipate what comes next.

Spanish: The children will learn the Spanish language as it is integrated into the classroom through games, songs, and fingerplays, they will also be able to identify Spanish colors and numbers throughout the year.

Spiritually: The children participate in prayer during their day including a blessing before snack time, sing songs about God and Jesus, hear stories about God and Jesus, and participate in bimonthly chapel lessons in the sanctuary with our church minister, Cynthia Collins. They also learn that God created the world, that Jesus is God's son, and that God loves them. During Christmas, they will learn about the birth of baby Jesus. During Easter, they learn that Jesus gave us new life.

Outdoor classroom: Physically, the children utilize the playground and play toys to develop gross motor skills. They engage in activities such as running, skipping, climbing, and balancing. They will be challenged to grow in their gross motor skills by practicing things such as catching, throwing, kicking while involved in structured group games. There are a variety of pieces of equipment available to challenge them within safe parameters.

Literacy: The teachers will help the children develop literacy by continually exposing them to oral and written language, and by building on prior knowledge and language experiences. Pictures, play, and the printed word combine with oral language to help your child understand the symbolic representation that underlies reading and writing. We will encourage print awareness by helping them see the printed word, and the nature of printed words and books. The teachers will encourage phonological awareness, narrative skills, letter awareness, and enhanced knowledge of letters and numbers. Throughout the year they will be challenged with higher level pre-reading concepts.

Conferences: Each teacher will create a portfolio for your child with work examples, and documentation of learning. We will meet with you during parent teacher conferences twice during the school year. Once in November and again in May. During the November conference is a wonderful time to discuss with your child's teacher your expectations for your child's year at Winfree.