



Winfree Memorial Preschool JK Curriculum

The JK program at Winfree is available for children who have turned 5 by December 30th. It is designed to further develop 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: Through 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. This will encourage the natural progression to a more refined pencil grasp and the ability to engage in more complex art experiences.

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 5, they will be exposed to continually more challenging fine motor tasks such as drawing shapes, cutting out patterns, and manipulating smaller materials.

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 and lower-case letters of the alphabet, numbers 1-20, and their first and last names. In addition, we will practice graphing, counting, and patterning. They will explore letter sounds, syllables, and rhyming words. Other important skills include solving peer conflict and learning to be independent in self-care and problem solving.

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 (approximately 30 minutes) 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 multi-step directions, and anticipate what comes next. Some specific concepts explored in Group time will be days of the week and learning their address and phone number.

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 and "must do" literacy activities will be incorporated into the day.

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.

Personal and Social Development: Self-Concept, Social problem solving, independent self-care, and the ability to transition to new situations are integrated into the daily routine. The Value of early education in this developmental area is imperative to the future academic success and growth of children's intellectual development.

Unique to our JK Classroom:

Use of Contracts

In Junior Kindergarten, children use contracts in graph form to record their intention in selecting centers. They practice math, reading and writing skills as they plan their day.

Use of Writing Folders the Last Half of the Year with Daily Writing

Beginning in January, children will practice writing daily, keeping work samples in writing folders and presenting those samples to families at the end of each week.

Use of Journals

In the spring the children do writing activities at home and record their activities in a marble notebook to present to the teacher.