

## **PRESCHOOL HANDICAPPED PROGRAM**

The Preschool Program is designed to assist children, ages 3 years to 6 years of age, who have been identified with developmental delays. The program focuses on integration of the five developmental areas into functional skills with a main focus on individual goals and objectives. The five developmental areas include cognitive, adaptive, social-emotional, physical (fine and gross motor) and communication skills.

### **SOCIALIZATION**

Play encourages social interactions, cooperative play, sharing and develops the ability to relate to others. In addition, play provides an opportunity to encourage the development of responsibility, cooperation, sharing and respect.

### **COMPUTER**

Basic skills are introduced through the use of the computer. In addition, the computer aids in the development of eye-hand coordination, following directions, problem solving, attending and technical skills (i.e. use of mouse, opening and closing programs and computer etiquette). Our computer programs support the classroom curriculum.

### **CIRCLE**

Circle time encourages language and cognitive skill development through the exploration of our weekly theme, introduction of concepts, categories, colors, number concepts, music, shapes and sequencing activities. Articulation is a focus during Circle time by letter-sound associations with correct placement models provided for each sound. Self-concept and positive social interactions are modeled and encouraged and are integrated throughout all the daily activities.

### **COOKING**

Cooking reinforces language skills, develops independence, problem solving, memory, cause and effect relationships, and sequencing skills. Sensory awareness and oral motor development are integral parts of our cooking activities, involving touch, taste, vision, hearing and smell.

## **SNACK**

Snack time is an informal way to encourage and develop conversational skills, review activities already completed and to demonstrate appropriate table manners, cleanliness and grooming.

## **WORK CENTERS**

The work center employs a variety of activities to develop sensory integration, develop creativity and focus on the development of fine motor skills (such as cutting, writing, coloring, gluing, painting). All activities integrate pre-readiness skills for math, reading, language arts and supports the theme for the week.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Develops listening and attending skills. Encourages self-exploration of books, develops vocabulary skills, sequencing, and expressive language skills. The listening center promotes independent use of multi-media equipment, independent skills and self-confidence. The use of videos supports multi-modality presentations of specific instruction within the content areas, (such as reading, math, language, social studies, science).

## **FOLDERS**

Folder work is provided to encourage self-motivation, the ability to follow instructions independently and independent task completion, while focusing on individual skill development such as letter recognition, number recognition, concepts, and fine motor skills.

## **GROSS MOTOR ACTIVITIES**

Develops large muscle control through activities outside on the playground, playing ball, obstacle courses, marching to music. Improves body awareness and develops comprehension of concepts (in, on, under, over, etc.) in relation to position in space.

## **FINE MOTOR ACTIVITIES**

Develops small muscle control through activities such as coloring, cutting, pasting, folding, gluing, painting and drawing. Fine Motor development is a major focus during Art Activities and also focuses on direction following, attending skills and cognitive development.

## **SOCIAL REWARDS**

Reinforces good behavior and awards each student for accomplishing a particular task during the day. This is the time we review the daily activities and prepare for the next day.

## **ADAPTIVE SKILLS**

Personal care skills, such as washing and drying hands and face, toileting skills, and dressing skills are a focus, depending upon the individual needs of the child. These skills are incorporated into functional activities during the school day.