



## Munchkin Room (4 and 5 year olds)

Our program is designed to maximize the educational and social benefits for your child's future success. Below you will find an overview of the skills we help our students develop in the Munchkin classroom during the course of the school year to prepare the students for kindergarten.

### Social and Emotional Development

- Self-esteem: Sharing, appreciating differences, star student, building positive self awareness, completing individual goals within the classroom, managing transitions
- Social Skills: Cooperation, teamwork, problem solving, table manners and discussion during meal time and group time, learning how to respect yourself and one another, multicultural awareness, identifying feelings, coping mechanisms, stages of play, self direction and independence
- Self-Help Skills: Dressing themselves (winter gear), cleaning up, unpacking their lunch and opening bags and containers, bathroom etiquette, drop off and pick up routines

### Approaches To Learning

- Show interest in discovering and learning new things, risk taking- choose new as well as a variety of familiar activities, using new ways to solve problems or explore objects

### Language and Literacy Development

- Show comprehension of stories, directions and conversations, follows directions that involve a 2 or 3 step sequence of actions, is able to seek teachers help when needed to resolve conflict, be able to communicate in sentences, shows beginning understanding of concepts and print, begin to associate sounds with words or letters, journal writing, weather and calendar helpers, songs, games, basic sight words

### Creativity and the Arts

- Participate in art and music experiences, show others and/or talk about what they have made or done, share experiences, ideas, and thoughts about art and creative expression

### Cognitive Skills

- Name writing, colors/shapes, reciting their birthday, reciting their address and phone number, upper and lower case alphabet, alphabet sounds, pre-reading skills, recognizing and duplicating simple patterns, positional references, cause and effect, sequencing, rhyming and opposites
- Math: Counting games and songs, board games, graphing, counting by 5s and 10s to 100, introduction to numbers 0-30, can rote count

## **Gross and Fine Motor Skills**

- Gross Motor: Creative/movement, climbing, swinging, is able to do the monkey bars, mirroring actions, group games, walk up and down stairs with alternating feet, balance and control
- Fine Motor: Cutting, building, gluing, painting, drawing, using the tripod grasp to hold a pencil, lacing, puzzles, using eye hand coordination to perform a variety of tasks

## **Spanish**

- Basic Skills: Alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes
- Months: We start this in January. The teacher will ask the children the month in English and then the teachers will repeat the month back to the children in Spanish
- Days of the Week: We start this in January
- Simple Phrases: Please and thank you, Wash your hands, How are you and then learn how to respond, hello/goodbye

## **Sign Language**

- Basic Skills: Alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes
- Simple Phrases: Please and thank you, Our Father, Hail Mary, ABC song
- Children will be able to sign their names and their age
- Theme based words

## **Religious Education**

- The children will develop an awareness of God, the bible, learning prayers (Our Father and the Hail Mary), empathy, respect and values through developmentally appropriate activities, including being kind and loving to each other. Father John and Deacon Russ visit the Munchkin room and read bible stories.
- Superhero Saints and bible stories
- Celebrate major liturgical holidays

## **Research Based Curriculum with Themes**

### **Portfolios**

- An accumulation of your child's work throughout the year

### **SEEDS Reading Program**

- Weekly books with corresponding vocabulary words

### **Daily Rest Time**

- Rest time is provided daily as a time for quiet and to gather energy. Naps are to be peaceful and supervised. If a child is not asleep after 30-40 minutes, the child is welcome to engage in quiet activities on his/her cot so as not to disturb other children who are resting.

### **Daily Outside Time**

- Outdoor play is an important part of your child's day at the NELC. We believe it is vital to the total health of a child. We will go outdoor each day, weather permitting.
- We are also able to use the large motor room across the street at Nativity School

## Theme Based Units

- Welcome to the NELC
- Nativity County Fair
- Apples
- All About Me
- Community Helpers
- Friendship/Manners
- Catholic Schools Week
- American History
- Earth Week
- Ocean
- Fire Prevention
- Halloween
- Fall
- Thanksgiving
- Winter
- Chef Week
- Advent
- Christmas
- New Year's Day
- Germs
- My Plate
- Human Body
- Five Senses
- Dinosaurs
- Lent
- Valentine's Day
- Dental
- Favorite Authors
- Dr. Seuss
- Music
- St. Patrick's Day
- Spring
- Easter
- Rainforest
- Conference Prep
- April Showers
- May Flowers
- Bugs/Butterflies
- Graduation
- Goodbye My NELC Friends