

NEW NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

We would like to invite our growing families to know that in the fall of 2011 St. Francis Preschool will open their 2-3 year old classroom. We will refer to it as the Noah's Ark Room. Class will be held in the refurbished Children's Center. Children need to be 2 years old by Sept. 1. Children do not need to be potty trained at this time; parents will need to provide all necessary items for diapering.

The program times will remain consistent with the rest of the preschool.

Full Day 7:30-5:30 Parents provide healthy morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack

$\frac{3}{4}$ Day 7:45-2:45 Parents provide a healthy morning snack and lunch

$\frac{1}{2}$ Day 7:45-11:45 Parents provide a healthy morning snack

$\frac{3}{4}$ and full time children will need a small crib size blanket and sheet for their nap mat, which will be sent home each week to be laundered and returned to school.

Noah's Ark Curriculum will consist of a "hands on" developmental program. Children will grow through positive experiences with loving and caring teachers. These relationships will be strengthened through a partnership with family members. We will create a positive learning environment, where care will have a purposeful meaning to each child in attendance. We will develop trusting relationships with the children to gain their confidence towards self-regulation. We will enhance their sense of wonder and discovery by inviting them to explore through their senses and increase their sense of wonder.

Through their play, they will explore a nurturing, loving, and Christ-centered environment and be given the gift of time to experiment, discover and think. Because our children learn in an atmosphere of acceptance and respect, we believe that they will grow to trust in their own talents and abilities and ultimately in themselves.

- Prayer will be introduced through song and praise

- Group gathering will be a time to share ideas through language development, practice listening skills and stimulate thinking, enrich their social skills and lengthen their attention spans
- Gross-motor activities give children the opportunity to use their muscles as well as their imaginations. Activities will be designed to develop skills while having fun
- Fine motor activities help improve small motor development and eye-hand coordination. Children will begin to learn to hold and use crayons, markers and paint brushes. Other manipulative activities will include puzzles of various skill levels, stringing beads and building with blocks.
- Art/sensory activities help to creatively express their thoughts and feelings. We will develop concepts of colors, shapes and size relationships. Children will explore and develop their ability to create art with items such as paint, play dough, water, sand, mud, glue, tissue paper, noodles, paper plates, glitter and shaving cream. At this age the process of using these items is more important than the finished product.
- Dramatic Play Activities help children express themselves, practice life skills, improve social skills, increase self-worth, build vocabulary and solve problems. They will explore and develop communication skills with other children and with their teachers. Children will learn to express their thoughts and ideas and know that those thoughts and ideas are important.
- Music Activities promote listening skills, creative expression and social skills. Through music, children can explore sound, volume, tempo, rhythm and spatial relationships.
- Math will be a time to explore and develop concepts in number sense, quantity, counting, sorting, classification and patterning.
- Science is the continuing study of the things that God created such as plants, animals, bugs, planets and people. Lessons are designed to create wonder and spark curiosity.