



## Kindergarten Curriculum Description

Our curriculum is based upon the philosophy that children learn best through experience. A child will acquire knowledge through active participation with age-appropriate materials and with individuals in the environment. Teachers in our program serve as facilitators in their interactions with children. All teachers interact with children in loving, nurturing, and positive ways which help each child to feel safe, loved, and valued. Our curriculum addresses the whole child including academic, physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual domains. Each classroom is divided into centers which allow children to rotate through the room for different experiences. Additionally, several daily large and small groups explore the weekly theme to achieve our goal of building life-long learners. All learning activities are geared to the children's developmental readiness and needs. Our goal is to meet each of the children where they are and "grow them from there." We respect that different children learn through different modalities, and all children learn at different speeds.

## Evaluations

Formal yearly conferences with evaluations will be conducted each spring. Also, at the end of the year, parents will be given their children's portfolios so that the progress a child has made throughout the year can be seen. Families may request a conference any time with the teachers. Additionally, SPCDC has an Open Door Policy. While SPCDC has an Open Door Policy and parents and guardians are welcome to visit, these visitations may not interfere with the flow and activities of the classrooms.

## Language Arts



Shandon Presbyterian Kindergarten's language arts program stresses continual growth throughout the year with an emphasis on building skills sequentially. All children have many daily opportunities which will add to their existing foundation of fine motor, writing, and pre-reading skills. Throughout the year children will experience increased levels of instruction as their skills progress. A wide range of classroom materials for students with different sets of skills are available so that the teachers may address a wide instructional range. All children participate in journaling each morning. During this time they engage in composition with inventive spelling. Inventive spelling is the process by which children sound out and write words by how they "sound" to them. This process allows children the freedom to attempt to spell without the fear of failure. As children become more proficient in their skills and gain more confidence, they will be held to higher standards of spelling accuracy. In addition, children are taught proper handwriting technique which will also be held to a higher standard as skills are mastered. Children will begin to learn sight words during this time as well. During the latter part of journaling time children are encouraged to illustrate their journal compositions. Each journal is kept throughout the year so that children, teachers, and parents may look back at the progress each child has made. Throughout the year additional reading and writing assignments will be assigned as well. Children are read to daily and are encouraged to read orally.

## Mathematics

All children are natural-born mathematicians. Our job as teachers is to facilitate the emergence and use of critical thinking, reasoning, problem solving, and classification skills already inherent in a child's abilities. We achieve these goals in a non-threatening, relevant way through hands-on manipulatives, rather than abstract worksheets and through materials in our environment. Students must recognize how math is fun and relevant to their lives. They will recognize patterns, hone sorting and seriating skills, and problem solve in a reasonable time *with* accuracy. Our teachers will employ manipulatives to aid comprehension and mastery in fractions, measurement (both standard and non-standard), patterning, time-telling, graphing, algebra, and geometry.



## Social Studies



Children are exposed to their own home communities as well as other communities around the world. They will participate in service activities, such as exposure to and thanking of our community workers (firefighters, police officers, postal workers, etc.), singing to the elderly, and having pride in our facility and neighborhood. Children will take field trips to explore their community, and guests will be invited in as well. Children will also explore other cultures around the globe. This exploration includes the customs, food, music, language, and location of other people throughout the world. We are greatly aided in our ability to explore our world and its current events through the computers and Internet we have in our room.

## Science

Our science activities are incorporated into the weekly theme. Our scientific focus includes physical science, life science, and astronomy. While children will explore specific scientific activities initiated by the teachers, science materials are always readily available in the classroom. Children's experiences with scientific phenomena will often be incorporated into the reading, writing, and journaling done daily. Children are taught using The Scientific Method (Ask a question, Research, Hypothesize, Experiment (test), Analyze data to draw conclusion, Report results). Reporting of the results may be verbally, through journaling, or by graphing. Our research abilities are heightened by our in-room Internet access.



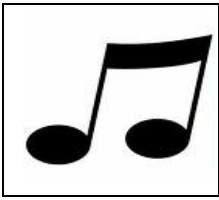
## Fine Arts



Artistic appreciation and expression is an integral part of the development of creative thinking. Children are encouraged to discover and develop their talents and to gain an appreciation for all areas of the arts: visual, musical, and performance. Children will have access to a multitude of art materials with which they can experiment, sometimes guided and sometimes freer and more exploratory. These materials will be in mixed media: pastels, charcoals, water colors, clay (we have a kiln to fire clay pieces), acrylics, and the traditional markers, pencils, and crayons. Some of these art experiences are individual, and some are group-oriented. The goal behind a group art project is cooperation, appreciation, and a common goal.

Another aspect of art appreciation is having access to the art of others. In addition to the extensive library Shandon Presbyterian CDC has on site, children will gain this access through field trips to the ballet, Richland County Public Library, plays, and through exploring the art of their fellow classmates. The Artist Group that meets at Shandon Presbyterian Church has "adopted" the kindergarten class, and invites them to visit weekly to talk about their art. Through this, the children are able to see pieces of art from their inception to completion, talking about them along the way. The kindergarteners often attend the daytime receptions the Group holds throughout the year.

## Music



Yet another part of the children's art experience includes their involvement with our music curriculum. All kindergarten children will participate in a weekly music class lead by a state-certified teacher of music. As the class progresses throughout the year, the musical concepts will become more complex. Along the way, children will be exposed to and experiment with voice, rhythm, movement, call-and-response, and different instruments.

All materials and activities are developmentally appropriate. While singing and chanting to develop a child's pitch matching ability, I am also emphasizing feeling a steady beat, and listening skills in a variety of ways. It is crucial that children embody musical skills so I include activities that use fine, gross and locomotive movements. I also think it is important to encourage group socialization and for the children to experience pleasure from music.

## Spanish

All kindergarten children will participate in a weekly Spanish class. The Spanish classes are taught according to the school's philosophy that children learn best through play. Colors, numbers, body parts, animals, and other basic vocabulary are therefore taught largely through finger-plays, songs, games, and educational toys. Additionally, the Spanish instructor provides the teachers with a review sheet covering the week's lesson so content can be reviewed throughout the week.



## Chapel



Children will participate in a weekly chapel program lead by the ministers with Bible stories and songs. This program is supplemented by a Christian curriculum reinforced by the teachers throughout the week by the circulation of the specific story read in chapel along with its notebook containing activity ideas, musical suggestions, and follow-up activities.

## Computers

Our kindergarten classroom has two computers which the children can access at all times. The computers have software on them to protect against access to inappropriate web sites, and each child's time on the computer is limited to an appropriate amount of time. Additionally, the kindergarten class attends Fast Forward Community Center every other week via bus. There children



receive individualized guided instruction about the use of computer technology through age-appropriate games.

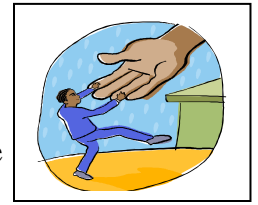
## Extra Curricular Activities



Our children have access to a multitude of weekly extra-curricular activities. All of our extra-curricular providers are background checked and provide two instructors per class period. Karate is offered on-site through Capital Karate. Gymnastics is offered on-site through Joe's Planet Funastics. Ballet is offered on-site through Columbia Ballet School. Beginner Keyboarding is offered on-site through Ann McNair. Older or more advanced students may receive on-site piano lessons through Bill McNair. Please check the Extracurricular folders at the CDC offices for times and prices.

## Service Opportunities

The grace of giving is an important lesson. Shandon Presbyterian Kindergarten offers multiple opportunities throughout the year for children to practice thankfulness for what they have as well as the opportunity to give of their time, talents, and resources to those who are less fortunate than they. Some of the outreach projects Shandon supports are the First Ladies' Walk for Life, Harvest Hope Food Bank



at Thanksgiving, and Families Helping Families (Angel Tree) at Christmas. The Five Kindergarten class takes the food collected from the school's Harvest Hope Food Boxes to the drop-off site on collection day. Teaching children compassion leads to lifelong good citizenship, and that lesson is as important as any taught here.

## Thank you!

We very much appreciate the important duty parents have to provide their children the right start in life. That task is one of the most important roles parents have. Our commitment to serving your family is paramount, and we very much appreciate your careful consideration of our program. If you have any questions, want to observe the classroom, or if there is anything else we can do to help you, please let us know. Thank you for your interest.