



LEARN. PLAY. GROW.

Curriculum Overview

Woodhome Preschool Center formulated our curriculum with guidance from the MSDE
(Maryland State Department of Education)

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Overview

The staff at Woodhome Preschool understand that your little learner's future starts with a solid learning foundation that builds confidence for kindergarten and beyond! Our curriculum is developed with student success at the forefront in conjunction with Maryland Early Childcare educational standards.

Within each broad goal area below, objectives are included that provide guidance in planning purposeful instruction. The curriculum is designed to enable children to acquire knowledge, skills and processes and apply them in meaningful ways which enhance their preschool experience.

The progression through each program below, in sequential order, over the course of a 3-year preschool experience strategically aligns little learners for future academic success and provides them with the self-confidence to embrace an education beyond preschool.

2-year-old Curriculum: Discovering Their World

To help develop language and literacy skills, teachers:

- Describe what they are doing as well as what the child is doing, so that children will hear more language and connect words to actions.
- Create a print-rich classroom environment with labeled materials to allow children to begin to understand that print conveys meaning.
- Read aloud multiple times a day, as well as allow independent exploration of books.
- Ask questions about books and encourage interaction during reading.
- Sing songs/rhymes daily.
- Encourage pretend play and participation with other children.
- Allow opportunities to experiment with writing materials and valuing scribbles.
- Encourage children to tell a story or description of what they are creating.
- Explore colors and create a color book.

To introduce early math concepts, teachers:

- Use math words such as heavy and light, big and small, long and short, to help children begin to understand math concepts.
- Provide opportunities to count while touching a variety of objects. For example, “How many cows do we have in the block area?”
- Provide opportunities to explain if something is more or less, first or last. For example, “Is that more or less than the number of sheep we have in the block area?”
- Allow independent exploration of puzzles and sorting materials.
- Allow measurement using materials in the classrooms. For example, “How many blocks does it take to match how long _____ is?”
- Encourage persistence even when children get frustrated.

To introduce science concepts, teachers:

- Provide opportunities to explore a variety of materials and tools in a sensory way and ask questions that encourage children to predict what will happen if _____.

- Provide opportunities to explore light and shadows.
- Provide opportunities to observe and describe weather and seasonal changes.
- Introduce activities and conversations that help children name and describe body parts.

To encourage creative arts exploration, teachers:

- Offer a variety of music to listen and move freely to.
- Allow opportunities to explore a variety of musical instruments.
- Allow ongoing exploration of a wide variety of age-appropriate art materials and tools
- Offer opportunities to participate in pretend or imaginative play in the dramatic play space, as well as with puppets and purposeful toys.

To develop strong social-emotional skills, teachers:

- Model empathy and encourage children to imitate comforting behaviors.
- Model impulse control, and validate children's emotions, as well as model alternative reactions that will allow children to self-soothe in the future.
- Provide children with the words to express both positive and negative emotions.
- Allow children opportunities to demonstrate independence and do some self-care routines themselves.
- Provide a consistent daily schedule and routine.
- Model conflict resolution and provide children with words to use instead of physical actions.

To boost physical growth, teachers:

- Encourage children to use spoons or forks to feed themselves instead of fingers.
- Offer opportunities to participate in physical play both indoors when appropriate, and outdoors on playground equipment.
- Introduce different writing materials for children to practice making marks on paper.

3-year-old Curriculum: Purposeful Play and Learning

To support language and literacy skills, teachers:

- Help children listen to and follow simple multi-step directions.
- Model and teach children how to ask questions.
- Teach children how to hold a book and turn the pages from left to right.
- Read together in library area and during group time.
- Sing songs with rhyming and repetition that builds vocabulary and encourage phonological awareness.
- Describe things and have conversations that help increase communication skills and vocabulary.
- Help children recognize and write their first name.
- Introduce children to uppercase and lower-case letters.
- Create a shapes book.

To encourage mathematical exploration, teachers:

- Sing songs, finger-plays and nursery rhymes that include numbers.
- Use mathematical language, such as large/small, under/over, up/down to describe position and location.
- Provide toys that engage children in exploring size and shape, such as blocks.
- Provide tools that allow them to measure objects such as scales, rulers, measuring tapes, clocks, timers, and measuring cups.
- Count with children and touch each object as they count. Explore numbers 1-10.
- Create a numbers book.

To promote scientific learning, teachers:

- Provide magnifying glasses to explore objects.
- Ask children to compare different objects found in nature.
- Read non-fiction books about pets, plants, bodies, water, etc., according to theme.

To help children develop and practice social-emotional skills, teachers:

- Provide children with opportunities to lead and gain a sense of independence through classroom jobs and making choices throughout their day.
- Read books that are related to helping children describe and understand their feelings.
- Model appropriate interactions and help children develop the language to express their emotions.
- Play games that encourage children to stop and go, thereby controlling their actions. For example, games like Simon Says and Red-Light Green Light, which require children to think before they can act.

To promote healthy physical development, teachers:

- Provide balls, bean bags and materials for children to roll, throw, bounce, and catch.
- Encourage children to collect, dump, and fill small objects, whether they are natural materials like leaves, seeds, shells, and rocks or they are toys to bring outdoors.

4-year-old Curriculum: Kindergarten Preparedness

To support language development and emergent writing skills, teachers:

- Encourage children to use more complex sentences.
- Encourage children to contribute to group conversations.
- Encourage children to retell familiar stories using props.
- Help children recognize and write their own name in print (first and last).
- Help children recognize most/all uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Encourage children to tell stories, dictate their stories to their teachers, and use invented spellings to label their work.
- Begin sight word recognition. Create a sight words book, if appropriate.
- Create a letters book.

To encourage the exploration of math concepts, teachers:

- Provide games with opportunities to count and compare quantities.
- Encourage children to match patterns of items and creating their own patterns.
- Have children help set the table, count items to ensure that each member of the class has what they need.
- Encourage children to talk about the sequence of events.
- Encourage children to create and extend patterns.
- Encourage children to name and write numbers 0-10 and become familiar with numbers 11-20.
- Use position terms such as above, below, beside, and between.
- Introduce simple addition and subtraction and different way of counting

To help children explore science concepts, teachers:

- Encourage children to sort objects based on different attributes and explain their reasoning.
- Plan scientific experiments such as:
 - Mixing baking soda and vinegar and have children observe what happens

- Experiment with colored water so children can examine primary colors and create secondary colors
 - Predict patterns and make observations about the world around them depending on the theme.
- Provide classroom objects to promote creativity to enhance their play.

Our teachers help children learn how to:

- Identify their emotions and the emotions of others.
- Use words and actions to effectively express how they feel.
- Regulate their emotions with adult support, if needed.
- Maintain friendships.
- Demonstrate coordination and balance in a variety of activities.
- Communicate about foods that will keep them healthy.
- Demonstrate basic safety practices.
- Attend to personal care practices with minimal help from adults