

Welcome to the Junior Room!

It is our pleasure to welcome you and your child to the Junior Room. We look forward to being the best place for your child to spend his or her day. Our goal is to foster independence and to prepare your child for entrance to the Senior Room. The following information will help you prepare for the experiences we will share.

Our Classroom

While we are constantly changing materials, our 5 main areas or centers in the classroom are as follows: Housekeeping, Blocks/Puzzles/Manipulatives, Reading Readiness, Math Readiness/Science, and Art. Feel free to walk in and explore any new or favorite areas with your child during drop off and pick up times.

Day Sheets

In the Junior Room, we encourage daily communication between you and your child. In order to accomplish this goal, we do not hand out day sheets. If there is something specific that you would like to know regarding your child's day, please let the Head Teacher know. We encourage you to ask your child about the activities he or she participated in during the day. This makes for great dinner conversation!

Academic Curriculum

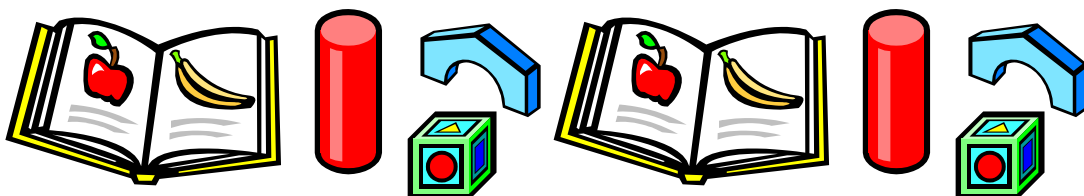
Some of our academic goals in the Junior Room include recognizing letters and numbers. We will be introducing your child to both upper case and lower case letters. We will also work on sequencing and ordering. Your child will be working with scissors and learning how to cut on the lines. We also use a curriculum called "Handwriting Without Tears" that includes activities that are designed to develop important skills for readiness in early literacy and printing. At all times, we strive to encourage creativity and independence in your child.

Christian Curriculum

Each week, we incorporate a Bible story theme into our activities in order to enhance your child's awareness and knowledge of our awesome Lord. Our Bible theme is reflected in all areas of the classroom. Once a week, your child will participate in a large group Bible time. This large group time will be filled with songs, puppet shows, skits, and videos relating to the Bible story for that week. Check your monthly newsletter for the weekly Bible story theme.

Potty Training

Our goal in the Junior Room is to have all of the children potty trained by the end of November. We feel confident that if we are consistent in the classroom and you are consistent at home, your child will experience success. We appreciate your cooperation and support.



Separation Anxiety

It is very common for children to have some separation anxiety, especially if this is the first time your child has gone to preschool. There are several things you can do to minimize the apprehension your child may be experiencing. Reassure your child that you will be back to pick him up and that the separation is only temporary. When you pick up your child, discuss their day and the activities they enjoyed. Also, return when you promise and do not leave without saying goodbye.

Limits

Your child will be introduced to new limits in the Junior Room, with the intention of increasing their attention span. We will be working on facilitating good socialization skills, cooperative play, using our words, keeping our hands to ourselves, and following directions. We also stress the importance of inside voices, walking feet, and gentle touches to maintain a safe and fun learning environment for all of the children.

Meal Time

Some children may eat very little food the first few weeks. There is no cause for panic-most children adjust quickly and begin to eat normally. Sometimes children are so overwhelmed by their new environment, new friends, materials, toys, and activities that eating is the last thing they are interested in.

Nap Time

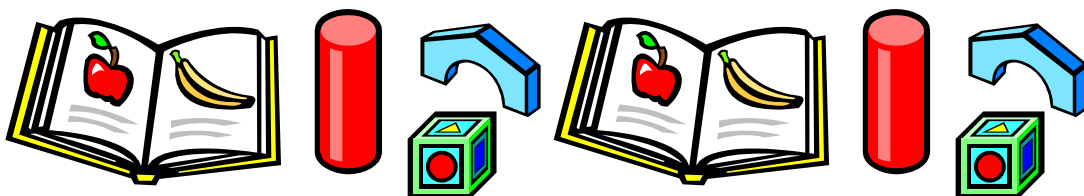
Naps are usually a big concern for parents. To assist your child in feeling comfortable, please send a child-sized blanket, and a favorite soft animal. Naptime will last between 2 and 2 ½ hours. The lights will be turned off, soft music will play, and staff will rub the children's backs. Your child is encouraged to sleep or rest quietly during this time.

Field Trips

The Juniors do participate in field trips with the Seniors and School Ageds. Field trips can be very exciting for the Juniors. They look forward to riding the school bus and enjoying the activities planned on the trips. If you are interested in chaperoning on any of our field trips, please see the office staff for a volunteer form.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a great time to feel special! We would love to celebrate your child's special day with our class. You are welcome to bring in a birthday snack. However, to protect our children with food allergies, it must be store-bought and include a list of ingredients.



General Classroom Rules

We encourage children to follow these guidelines in the classroom out of respect and for the safety of others:

- Please use your walking feet
- Please use inside voices
- Please help keep our room neat by cleaning up after yourself
- Please keep toys in their appropriate area
- Please keep your hands to yourself

Parent/Teacher Communication

Daily communication is always available to parents. Please feel free to telephone whenever necessary. The best time to call is during naptime, but do not hesitate to call at another time if needed. We will meet formally twice a year for parent/teacher conferences, but this should not take the place of communicating any concerns that may arise. A note or phone call to the Head Teacher is always a step in the right direction.

Our Daily Routine

6:45-8:45 am	Arrival Time (Various Centers are Open)
*8:00-8:30	Breakfast
8:45-9:00	Clean up/Bathroom
9:00-9:20	Circle Time
9:20-9:45	Wash Hands/Snack Time/Bathroom
9:45-10:30	Small Group Activities
10:30-11:00	Gym/Outside Time
11:00-11:45	Free Play in Centers/Bathroom
11:45-12:00 pm	Large Group Activity
12:00-12:30	Lunch/Bathroom
12:30-3:00	Nap Time
3:00-3:15	Bathroom
3:15-3:30	Snack
3:30-4:15	Outside
4:15-4:30	Bathroom
4:30-5:45	Free Play

We are so glad that your child will be spending the year with us here in the Junior Room. We look forward to all of the fun and exciting activities and learning experiences!

God Bless,
The Junior Room Staff

