

# 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.

## Curriculum

The Junior room curriculum is designed to begin introducing many Kindergarten readiness skills. Activities relating to the weekly theme will cover topics such as letter recognition, shape and color recognition, sequencing/patterns, and fine motor skills such as cutting on a line and holding a writing utensil. 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.

During circle time, children work on important calendar concepts such as the days of the week, months of the year, and counting skills. In addition to calendar skills, circle time activities will also introduce a weekly letter, letter sounds, and other pre-reading skills.

Small group instruction offers children the opportunity to participate in structured, concept focused learning activities. Each day, all children will complete a reading/writing, math/science, and art activity. By having the children in smaller groups, the teachers are able to give more focused, individualized attention to the students as they learn. These activities will reflect the weekly theme, letter of the week, and monthly color and shape.

Each week, we also incorporate a Bible story theme into our activities. Our Bible theme is reflected in all areas of the classroom. Once a week, your child will participate in a large group Bible time. Check your monthly newsletter for the weekly Bible story theme.

## 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
- 9:00-9:30 Circle Time
- 9:30-9:45 Wash Hands/Snack Time/Bathroom
- 9:45-10:00 Library
- 10:00-10:30 Gross Motor/Outside Time
- 10:30-11:15 Small Group Activities
- 11:15-11:45 Free Play in Centers/Bathroom
- 11:45-12:00 Whole Group Activity
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch/Bathroom
- 12:30-3:00 Nap Time
- 3:00-3:15 Bathroom
- 3:15-3:30 Snack
- 3:30-4:00 Music
- 4:00-4:30 Outside
- 4:30-5:45 Free Play

### **Limits and Expectations**

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.

We will also work on self help and independence skills. Children will be responsible for things like putting away classroom materials in the proper places, putting personal items away in their cubbies, and checking their mailboxes at the end of the day.

### **Potty Training**

We will work with you and your child on potty training. We ask that you send your child to school each day in underwear and bring extra clothes in case of accidents. 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. It is not uncommon for children to cry at drop-off, and staying until they calm down can prolong the time it takes for them to adjust. Staff members do their very best to engage your child and make them feel welcome and comfortable.

### **Nap Time**

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. If your child is having trouble sleeping, a supervised, quiet activity will be provided for them.

### **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. Parents chaperones are chosen for field trips through a lottery system. If you are interested in joining your child's class on a field trip, stop by the office and asked to be added to the chaperone list.



### **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.

### **Parent/Teacher Communication**

In the Junior Room, we encourage daily communication between you and your child. We do not utilize paper day sheets, but we do use the Tadpoles program to keep parents updated on daily classroom activities. Through the Tadpoles app, you will receive an email report of your child's day, as well as photos of them. In addition, parents can also feel free to call whenever necessary and speak to a teacher.

We encourage you to ask your child about the activities he or she participated in during the day. This makes for great dinner conversation! 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.

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

