



VISITATION 4 YR. OLD PRESCHOOL 2017-2018



Philosophy



Catholic early childhood education is founded on the basic belief in the dignity of each child as a unique person created by God and endowed with gifts that are distinctly his/hers. Parents, as primary educators, form the basis of child's earliest experience of love, community and faith. In partnership, we build upon this foundation and provide developmentally, age-appropriate experiences designed to meet the physical, psychological, emotional, social, spiritual and cognitive needs of your child.

Program Goals

- To welcome children into a larger Christian community
- To develop a positive self-concept
- To develop an awareness of the wonder of learning and the wonders of God's creation
- To encourage social and emotional growth
- To foster independence and self-confidence
- To encourage cooperation within a group, especially the aspects of listening, sharing and taking turns
- To develop large and small motor skills
- To develop the potential for understanding and thinking critically
- To provide experiences which develop a child's attention span
- To develop communicational skills through art, music, and language
- To develop conceptual skills
- To develop a sense of responsibility

Curriculum: 4 Yr. Olds

In the four-year-old program, we continue to develop the skills from the previous year such as, listening skills, following directions, communication skills large motor development and fine motor development.

There is also an emphasis on the Readiness Skills that are needed for Kindergarten.

Play:

Play is a vital part of the learning process. Children who actively engage in play have experiences which they thoroughly enjoy, learn more about themselves, gain a better understanding of others, discover the workings of the world, further their own language development and learn to better solve problems.

Social/Emotional Development:

It is through activity and play that children learn to be cohesive with their peers. Social development encompasses appropriate verbal and physical communication skills as well as interpersonal relationships. In the early childhood program we help the children develop positive relationships with their peers through communication, recognizing their own feelings and by showing empathy, sympathy and caring of others.

Religion:

Young children are in awe over the idea of God who loves each one of us more than we can imagine and about a friend named Jesus, who is always there for us no matter what. They are excited about Jesus, the teacher who shows us how to live and Jesus, the miracle worker, who can do things that no other person can do

The Catholic Early Childhood program builds upon the child's enthusiasm and excitement. It needs to allow the children to experience the wonder of Scripture and to celebrate the joy of a loving God. Through Bible stories, children can be introduced to the values of community, faith, hope, courage, reconciliation, service, justice and love. The children will grow gradually in their understanding as they experience these values in the classroom and in their home.

The Goals of the Early Childhood Religion Program Are:

- To know the three persons of God
- To recognize that we are all God's Children
- To know that God is always with us and will never leaves us
- To know that prayer is talking to and listening to God
- To know that we can pray to God at any time and at any place about anything.
- To recite and make the Sign of the Cross
- To recite simple prayers
- To recognize Mary as Mother of Jesus
- To enjoy Bible stories

We use the "Stories of God's Love" program. These are individual handouts including stories about Jesus and activities that go with it. We also do songs, films and Bible stories throughout the year. Of course, most importantly our children are introduced to the world of learning in a Catholic atmosphere that incorporates the value system that we enjoy.

Language Arts:

This is the foundation for communication skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. The early childhood program fosters an environment that develops a child's interest in stories and books. This program gives children the foundation to begin reading instruction. Pre-reading and pre-writing skills are taught through various interactive activities, books and learning centers.

Super Kids:

“Happily Ever After” is one component of the Super Kids reading program that has been started at Visitation. This is a reading program that will begin at the four-year-old Preschool level and continue through second grade.

The Preschool program is a readiness curriculum designed to prepare children for reading instruction. It includes beautifully illustrated stories, lively discussions, a great variety of hands -on activities and clear instruction that builds success, step by step. The program includes letter recognition, fine motor skills, auditory discrimination, instructional concepts, oral language development and beginning writing through children's dictation.

“Writing”: Each week we learn how to write the upper and lower case letter that's being taught. We practice how to write it on ice cream paper and reinforce the sound that an individual letter makes. We are also reinforcing how to write names, words and short sentences.

“Guided Reading”: These are individual short booklets that we read together, for comprehension, prediction, recognition of sight words and context clues. The goal of guided reading is for students to use these strategies independently on their way to becoming fluent, skilled readers.

Math:

Mathematical experiences at the early level develop children's ability to observe the world about them and to communicate what they see. Children will use concrete objects and manipulative devices and to participate in activities which will help them develop an understanding of concepts, needed to solve simple problems. The mathematical processes are critical thinking, solving problems, reasoning, communicating and making connections.

Math Their Way

Math Their Way is a hands-on math program designed for younger children. We use a variety of math materials and manipulatives to teach the following concepts: counting, number recognition, shapes, more/less, sorting, compare/contrast, sense of time, and measuring, graphing, patterning and the beginning of addition. We work in centers and small groups with manipulatives.

Art:

Through art children are given the freedom to express themselves. Throughout the year the children are exposed to a wide variety of art materials for their use.

Also, the art teacher, Ms. Nikiel, comes in once a week to work with the children.

Music:

It is through music that we expose children to the great world of sound and movement. By exploring a wide variety of music genres a child will be active participants through singing, movement and playing instruments

The four-year-olds go to the music room, once a week with our music teacher, Mr. Hardin.

Science:

The four-year-old program provides opportunities to expand a child's interest, knowledge, and exploration of various themes, by providing hands-on-activities that stem from a child's natural curiosity. Through these activities a child begins to understand and appreciate the world around them. Some of the themes that we will explore this year will be the four seasons, animals and their habitats, dinosaurs, 5 senses, oceans, butterflies and how plants grow.

During the year we will also supplement the program with the magazine, Clifford's Big World.

Social Studies:

The four-year-old program is the beginning of a child's understanding of themselves and what it means to be a member of a family and a community. Some of the themes that we explore are; All about Me, Friends, Families, Christopher Columbus, Native Americans, Holidays and Community Helpers

Technology:

One day of the week, the four-year-old classes will have the opportunity to visit the computer room. This is an introduction to the basic computer operations, such as mouse control and to work on readiness skills for Kindergarten. Some of the concepts that we'll be working on include letter and number recognition, counting, patterning, estimation, compare/contrast and memory skills. Volunteer parents are needed to make this program run smoothly so sign-up sheets will be available for your participation.

Every day we use the smart board beginning with the message of the day, the daily calendar, the introduction of sentence structure as well writing the alphabet letter of the week. We also use the smart board for interactive games when reinforcing various concepts.

One day a week a school volunteer will work individually with the children on an iPad reinforcing concepts such as: counting, letter and number recognition and writing the weekly letter.

Sharing:

This is a wonderful opportunity to give your child experience in problem solving, speaking in front of peers, concrete direction in listening to others and experience in asking and answering questions. Your son or daughter will anticipate their special time and gain self-confidence by standing as the focus of attention. While enhancing good self-esteem, it also promotes good peer relationships and friendships. A more detailed letter will be sent out at the beginning of the year.

Motor Skill/Physical Development:



The development of both large and small motor skills is of primary importance to a child's self-esteem and to all learning. It is through activities which incorporate play, games, exercise, rhythmic activities, creative movement and the use of manipulatives that children learn to coordinate their body movements with skill.

Large Motor

The four-year-olds will go to the gym once a week to develop their large motor skills. They learn how to run, jump, gallop, throw and catch. They also learn how to cooperate with each other by playing easy games.

Small Motor

Small muscles develop as children learn to manipulate blocks, small building materials as well as work puzzles. They also develop their muscles by cutting, gluing, painting, coloring and writing.



Schedule of the Day: (4 Yr. Olds)

Arrival: (Fine motor skills through art projects, free play and manipulatives.)

Rug Time: (prayer, concept of the day, music, finger plays, sharing, story, daily calendar)

Free Time: Choice of play

Religion: (**Stories of God's Love**, songs, films, Bible stories)

Reading: **Happily Ever After Series**, Guided Reading

Writing: Letter of the week, words, small sentences

Math: small groups with manipulatives

Art: Projects, fine motor skills-Once a week Ms. Nikiel comes in

Music: (songs, smart board, instruments, etc.) Visit the music room once a week

Science: Clifford's Big World Magazine, Hands on activities, books, films

Social Studies: Hands on activities, books, films, guest speakers

Technology: Once a week go to the computer room, Interactive Smartboard, I Pads

Gym: (Once a week – if nice go outside)

Snack Time: (prayer, parent helper and child set up snack)

Story: (books, flannel board, experience charts)

Tuition/Fees

A letter regarding tuition/fees for the 2017-2018 school year will be sent during the summer months.



The non-refundable registration fee should already have been paid. If you have not yet paid this fee, please contact the school office at (630) 834-4931.

All fees, emergency forms, and physical forms are to be filled out and returned by May 26, 2017.

Age and Health Requirements

Children entering the three-day a week program shall be four years of age by September 1, 2017. No exceptions.

Students must have a completed health form filled out by the first day of class.

Children must be completely toilet trained by the time they enter school.

If your child has allergies please let me know at the beginning of the school year.

Conferences

There are two planned conferences set aside each year. One will be in the beginning of the year and the other in the springtime. However, if you wish to speak with me during the year, arrangements will be made to meet before class or during class time

Class List

A class list including names, addresses, all phone numbers and all email addresses, will be sent in early September

School Dates



On Wednesday, August 23, there will be an open house for both of the four-year-old classes. The morning class will meet from **9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.** The afternoon class will meet from **12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.**

During this hour I will meet with all the children for a short rug time to get acquainted, sing songs and read a story. I have found that this gives you and your child an opportunity to see the room together, to meet other classmates, and to meet their teachers so we won't be such strangers on the first day of school. It will also give you an opportunity to talk about familiar things with your child before he/she comes back.

The first full day of school for the four-year-old afternoon class will be on **Thursday, August 24**. The first full day of school for the morning class will be on **Friday, August 25**. A more detailed letter explaining all of the procedures will be sent to your homes during the summer.



Entrance to the Building/Dismissal Time

The hours for the morning classes will be from **8:00-10:55**. The afternoon class will be from **12:00-2:55**.

Both of the classes will use the north parking lot of the school off of Kearsage Ave.

The morning class should park and walk your child down the sidewalk next to the school and enter through the outside entrance of the library.. I will be there waiting for them. I will also have 2 eighth grade students helping me to take them to the bench and to hang up their coats and backpacks.

The children in the afternoon program will enter through the Junior High doors. I will also have eighth grade students helping me to take them to their lockers.

Once the children are used to the procedure you can use the circular drive and drop them off when you see me. If you need to come into school for any reason you will have to park in the lot and walk your child into school.

The morning children can be dropped off, beginning at **7:45** and the afternoon class at **11:45**. Please wait for one of us to arrive before you leave.

If we are no longer there when dropping off you will have to enter school through the front door and walk them to the Preschool room.

Both of the Preschool classes will be dismissed from the school library entrance. You will have to meet us at the Library door so I can dismiss the children to you properly.

The morning class will dismiss at **10:55** and the afternoon class will dismiss at **2:55**. If you are later than 10 minutes you can pick up your child in the school office.

Class Pictures



Class and individual pictures, will be taken by Van Gogh Photographers in September.

Email/School Speak

School Speak is the computer program that will have all the school announcements on for the year. At the beginning of the year you will receive an individual code to log on to your account. Please make sure you update your information frequently.

Every month I will have a detailed calendar on school speak. The calendar will have the important dates for each month. It's very important to mark down these dates on your calendar at home.

I will also have the monthly newsletter on school speak . The newsletter will also be sent to you by email. Please check your email daily. If you need to contact me, my email address is **nsendelbach@visitation.il.k12us.com**. I check my email before school and at lunch time.

Backpack



You will need to supply a book bag, which will make carrying papers easier between school and home. Make the bag big enough to hold a large piece of construction paper. Put your child's name on the outside of the bag. Please check the bag daily and return it with your child the next school day.

Birthdays



We try to make each child's birthday a special event. On your child's birthday they will receive a crown, a birthday sticker and I will take their picture. After we sing to them they can choose an item from the treasure box. If desired, parents may send their child to school with a take-home birthday treat for the class. I prefer non-edible treats.

Please remember that if your child has a summer birthday, we will set aside a special day for them during the month of May.

Parental Involvement:

Parents are the primary educators of their children. When the child enters an early childhood program the parents and teacher have the opportunity to form a partnership which will lay the foundation for the best possible education for the child.

In order to help at school all new parents and any parent who has not attended yet, are required to attend the "Protecting God's Children" program that is offered in September.

Parent Helpers/Snacks



Each family is required to help out in the classroom as scheduled. The schedule is made up alphabetically and given out the first day of class. If you have a conflict with the date, please make arrangements with another parent, or a person you designate. If you do not attend that day, you are still responsible for sending the snack.

Please do not bring younger children on the day you parent help. This becomes a very special day that you and your preschool child will look forward to.

When it is your day to help you are responsible for the snack, juice, cups, and napkins. Some examples of healthful snacks are: popcorn, pretzels, prepared raw vegetables, sliced fruit, or cheese and crackers.

Since we have children with severe peanut allergies we are going to make all the classes a ‘NO PEANUT ZONE’.

If your child has an allergy please send their own snack to school each day.

Parties/Room Mother

We have many parties and special events throughout the school year. To make each of these parties as successful as possible I am requesting everyone's participation. Each parent is responsible to work on one party during the year. The room mothers will oversee the organization of these parties. Sign-up sheets will be available at the open house.

To make things easier for the room mothers a \$20.00 donation will be requested. This money will go toward the food, prizes, paper products, etc. that are needed throughout the year. This fee will be collected in September.

The following is a brief listing of the parties we have. More information will be sent home before each event.

October-Halloween Party

November-Thanksgiving Day Feast

December-Christmas Program and Refreshments

February-Valentine's Day Party

March/April-Easter Party

May-Mother's Day Tea

May-Circus

Last Day of School- 4 Yr. Old: Family Picnic



Field Trips

One of the largest and most exciting parts of the program are the field trips that we take during the school year. As a result of the new car seat laws we have to meet and dismiss at each trip. I will try to make more of them a family day.

A \$10.00 fee will be collected for the four-year-old classes. This money will cover expenses for the children on these trips throughout the year. This fee will also be collected in September. The following is again a brief synopsis of the trips that are taken during the school year.

Four Year Olds:

October-Oakbrook Nature Center

December-Santa's Express Train Ride

February-Dentist's Office

Protecting God's Children



This is a program for protecting children from sexual abuse. The program is an awareness session-the initial program component for adults in the faith community.

The Joliet Diocese has mandated this program for any person who has contact with children in the Diocese of Joliet. This includes teachers, volunteers, parent helpers, coaches, scout leaders, etc. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday, August 30 beginning at 6:00 P.M.** It will be held in the Parish Center.

You will also need to fill out a form giving permission for a background check.

Registration

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year, will be sent out, in the fall to all preschool parents and to parents who already have a child attending Visitation.

The registration forms should be filled out and returned as soon as possible

