



## *Programs of Learning-Three Year Olds*

### **Christian Knowledge**

#### The Bible

Children will:

- Know that the Bible is special and tells about God
- Understand that the Bible is a good Book

#### God

Children will:

- Understand that God loves them and takes care of them
- Learn that God made the world and them
- Appreciate that God made them "special"
- Thank God for what he has made
- Understand that God wants them to talk with Him
- Listen to and learn prayers, as well as have the opportunity to compose their own prayers
- Know that God wants them to please and obey Him

#### Jesus

Children will:

- Appreciate that Jesus loves them
- Learn that Jesus once lived on earth and now he lives in heaven
- Understand that Jesus is God's son
- Know that Jesus is a friend
- Know that Jesus was once a child like them
- Understand that Jesus said good things which are in the Bible

#### Home and Parents

Children will:

- Know that God gave parents to children
- Understand that God wants children to obey and please their parents

#### Worship

Children will:

- Understand that chapel is a place to sing about and pray to God
- Learn that chapel is a special place to learn about God

#### Others

Children will:

- Understand that God gives grown-ups to care for him
- Learn that Jesus wants them to be kind to others and to share with them

## **Program of Learning-Three Year Olds**

### **Social and Emotional Growth**

Children will:

- Always be valued and respected in a nurturing environment
- Have daily opportunities to learn how to play in cooperative group setting
- Be encouraged to attempt different activities in the classroom and demonstrate growth by choosing new activities
- Begin to demonstrate self-direction by following simple classroom routines and rules with diminishing support and guidance from teachers
- Have daily opportunities to demonstrate growth in self-control by:
  - Beginning to exhibit purposeful use of classroom materials
  - Learning and following classroom transition routines
  - Learning to solve conflicts with words and asking for help from adults
- Have daily opportunities to demonstrate growth in approaches to learning by:
  - Demonstrating curiosity and interest in different classroom activities
  - Beginning to make choices of materials for activities independent of teacher guidance
  - Beginning to develop flexibility and inventiveness while playing with classroom materials
- Demonstrate growth in positive interactions with others by:
  - Seeking help from supportive classroom adults when they have a conflict or need help making choices
  - Beginning to include other children in their play
  - Joining in conversations with other children and adults during classroom activities
  - Participating in class group activities like circle time, snack and chapel
  - Participating in small group activities that require following simple rules
  - Using polite and respectful language with peers and adults
  - Demonstrating empathy for others

### **Physical Development / Health and Safety**

#### **Physical Development**

Children will:

- Daily have child-initiated and teacher guided opportunities to practice and demonstrate locomotion activities such as: running, jumping, and hopping
- Daily have opportunities to practice non-locomotive skills requiring balance and spatial awareness such as: bending, twisting, rocking, rolling
- Daily have child-initiated and teacher guided opportunities to improve locomotion skills that require increasing coordination, balance, and spatial awareness such as: walking up and down stairs with alternating feet, galloping, hopping on alternating feet
- Daily have child-initiated and teacher guided opportunities to improve and practice non-locomotive activities that demonstrate improved coordination such as: pumping on a swing, riding a trike, kicking a ball
- Have opportunities to participate in activities that cross midline of the body like tapping knees with opposite-side hand. These types of activities improve and increase cognitive processing.
- Daily have opportunities to develop greater spatial awareness and use of body control by experimenting with activities that involve direction, level, pathway and speed of motion
- Daily have child-initiated and teacher guided activities that improve strength and hand-eye coordination while executing fine motor movements including use of scissors and drawing tools
- Combine music and movement

#### **Health/Safety**

Children will:

- Begin to perform self-care skills independently including activities like washing hands
- Begin to learn rules for safety in school and in their community

## **Program of Learning-Three Year Olds**

### **Language Arts**

*Three-year-olds are exploring and becoming skilled at language expression. Listening for content in group situations is emerging with practice. Threes experiment with sounds and new expressions; their vocabulary is developing rapidly.*

### **Oral Language**

Children will:

- Listen to short stories
- Begin to listen with understanding and sustain attention in group situations
- Follow simple one or two-step directions
- Listen with understanding to short records and tapes with picture books
- Speak clearly enough to be understood, expressing thought and emotion meaningfully
- Use words to request information
- Develop vocabulary from teacher directed content in conversation (“This is a. . .”).
- Use sensory words to describe their environment
- Have opportunities to practice rhyming in chants, poems and song
- Experiment with sound and expressions

### **Reading**

Children will:

- Listen to short stories in small and large groups
- Respond to questions about a story using illustrations as clues
- Identify characters in books through illustrations
- Re-tell stories using illustrations as guides
- Make up own stories using pictures
- Use illustrations as memory cues
- Choose books of interest to them
- Explain own illustrations/symbols
- Identify the difference between words and pictures in a book
- Find a book of interest by looking at the cover
- Begin to look at books from front-to-back
- Recognize all of the letters in their names and randomly identify other alphabet letters
- Begin to hear sounds associated with letters, especially hard consonants (b, p, t, d, k, l, m)

### **Writing**

Children will:

- Begin to recognize that writing is a way of communicating
- Give meaning to “scribbles”
- Dictate the letters of their name or others to write, or attempt to write, “symbols” or letters themselves

## **Program of Learning-Three Year Olds**

### **Mathematics**

*In order to identify patterns and the relationships of one thing to another, three-year-olds must first master the vocabulary of colors and shapes and understand the concept of size (big/little, long/short). They must understand the meaning of positional words such as under/over and beside. Mathematical learning has a foundation in concrete, real-life experiences.*

#### **Number and Number Sense**

Children will:

- Draw from observation of familiar things around them (i.e., know age, number(s) of eyes, ears, nose).
- Count in sequence from one to five or greater
- Recognize some numerals
- Ask and answer quantitative questions such as “how many”
- Demonstrate age by holding up three fingers
- Observe two sets of objects using comparative words like “bigger”, “smaller”
- Explore number picture books
- Learn songs that include numbers

#### **Patterns and Relationships**

Children will:

- Sort by one attribute (i.e. boy/girl, red/yellow)
- Notice a common attribute and comment on it
- Begin to sort by basic shape

#### **Geometry**

Children will:

- Identify simple shapes in their environment
- Identify and match circles, triangles, and squares
- Understand and demonstrate positional words “above,” “under,” “beside,” “on,” and “in”

#### **Measurement**

Children will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of words describing length (short/long), height (tall/short), weight (heavy/light)
- Use words of comparison to describe observations of everyday things around them
- Participate in measuring activities in classroom using everyday measuring tools for cooking and mixing

## **Program of Learning-Three Year Olds**

### **Science**

Science discovery for three year olds is at the level of awareness and exploration. There will be many spontaneous science opportunities as the children experience the world of nature at home and in their school environment.

#### **Science Investigation, Reasoning and Logic**

Children will:

- Know which senses are being used when making observations
- Explore and study common objects and living things
- Make collections and sort objects by different attributes
- Use tools for investigations, i.e. magnifying glasses/ large tripod magnifiers, eye-droppers
- Describe observations using color, size or shape words
- Notice similarities and differences through observation
- Verbalize observations

#### **Matter-Water**

Children will:

- Understand that all living things need water
- Know that water comes to the earth as rain or snow
- Explore the many uses of water (i.e., drinking, washing, cooking, recreational, gardening)
- Make observations about the properties of water, sand and dirt through opportunities to explore these materials in nature and classroom environment
- Discuss the importance of conservation of water as a natural resource

#### **Life Processes-Plants and Animals**

Children will:

- Know and verbalize differences between plants and animals from observations in real life experiences and classroom activities
- Experience growing plants from seeds and bulbs
- Recognize through observation and experimentation that plants need water and light to grow
- Recognize that living things (plants and animals) grow and change
- Recognize that they are living beings that grow and change
- Learn similarities and differences among adult animals and their offspring
- Describe the differences between wild and tame animals
- Understand that they can care for living things in their world

#### **Color**

Children will:

- Begin to classify by color
- Recognize and identify by name eight basic colors (black, brown, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, white)
- Observe that almost everything has a color
- Observe that mixing colors makes other colors

#### **Earth Patterns, Cycles, and Change**

Children will:

- Make and verbalize observations about changes in weather/seasons
- Identify different clothes worn in different kinds of weather
- Recognize pattern of their day and routines at school (answers question, "What comes next?")
- Recognize patterns of activities for day and night
- Observe that living things grow and change

**Program of Learning-Three Year Olds**  
**(Science, continued)**

Earth Science

Children will:

- Identify the sun as a source of light and heat
- Identify the sun, moon, and stars and the cycle of the day in which they might be seen
- Identify rain and snow as a source of water

## **Program of Learning-Three Year Olds**

### **Social Studies**

*Three year olds explore their own past and present. Their understanding of the past is yesterday's experience.*

#### **Understanding Self and Others**

Children will:

- Identify their physical attributes (explore the uniqueness of self like their name and voice)
- Notice common physical attributes of themselves and others (eyes, ears, nose, mouth)
- Learn about familial roles
- Role-play experiences in families
- Recognize differences and similarities in families
- Begin to think in terms of time as they experience daily cycles
- Recognize the difference among occupations by observing the clothes they wear and the equipment they use
- Role-play jobs of community helpers they come in contact with through their own experiences
- Listen to short stories about families and community helpers
- Learn vocabulary to identify people, places, and things in the community
- Understand that people (like animals) need food and water to live

#### **Civics**

Children will:

- Understand and follow simple rules at home and in the classroom
- Begin to understand that there are consequences for not following the rules

#### **Geography**

Children will:

- Begin to be aware of the physical characteristics of the earth as they have opportunities to explore the surfaces they walk on and bodies of water that they encounter traveling with families and classmates
- Begin using the vocabulary of direction up/down, forward/backward

## **Program of Learning-Three Year Olds**

### **Artistic Expression**

Children will:

- Use play as a vehicle for imagination and expression of feelings
- Daily, use a wide variety of materials for drawing, painting, and structural art
- Learn through experimentation that color and shapes they see daily in their environment may be represented in their art work
- Use appropriate language to label their artistic process, i.e., collage, drawing, painting, finger painting
- Respond to music rhythmically, using their bodies
- Use musical instruments to express rhythm and beat
- Participate in individual and group music experiences that are child-friendly
- Sing a variety of simple songs alone and with a group, becoming increasingly accurate in rhythm and pitch
- Improvise songs to accompany their play activities and daily routines