



Akers Academy

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Four Year Olds --- Pre-K 4

Four-year-old children are lively and adventurous. They ask more questions, show greater curiosity about their environment and are very interested in the printed word. Pre-reading skills are very important, as are writing, small muscle coordination, large muscle development and creative play, performance and storytelling. Additional developmental programs include yoga, sign language and Spanish.

The curriculum for our preschoolers is a multi-sensory approach. The activities present stimulation of the senses while being appropriate to the child's developmental stage. Learning stations are set up in the room for individual play, autonomy, discovery, co-operation with others, competence and creativity. Individuality is encouraged through self-initiated activities. Children are also taught in large and small groups as well as individually. Positive self-image is promoted through positive discipline, praise and recognition. Our curriculum includes:

Language Arts: The activities follow a language experience approach. Children's ideas, remarks and conclusions are written down and documented. Stories, discoveries, life events are likewise written down and gone over with the children. This method is to increase interest in the written word, promote reading, phonics and letter recognition.

Pre-reading Skills: Games, tapes and computer skill games support letter recognition and phonics. Worksheets may be used for small motor coordination in writing skills. Parent Readers who tape books for our listening centers, read to the class and donate books are a valuable asset to this activity and their child.

Science: Is hands-on giving an opportunity to observe, compare, explore, test, inquire and problem solve. This activity may be introduced in-group and then transferred to a learning station for autonomy.

Social Studies: Social Studies activities focus on learning about one self and others. We look at the maps, talk of home, country, family, transportation and the community. Field trips and visitors from the community and other countries expand this curriculum. Parents are invited and encouraged to help with this curriculum.

Art: Is a creative process but is also at times a directed activity to enhance listening skills, new techniques and following directions. A station is also set up for children to create individually. Exposure to art encourages growth in appreciation. Renoir, Matisse, and local artist may have special appeal to the young children.

Music: Includes songs, instruments, visitors, exposure to the classics and performances for parents.

Thinking and Gross motor Games complete the curriculum. The thinking games develop cognitive skills within a play situation. Gross motor play contributes to a positive physical and mental health and frees children from stress.

Math: Promotes skills of ordering, position, sequence, patterning, rote counting past 50, number recognition, likes and differences, and beginning simple addition.