

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MOTHER'S DAY OUT CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Our program uses a center-wide curriculum that provides lessons and activities to engage children in all the developmental domains of early childhood. The faith-based Pinnacle curriculum is based on the works of Piaget, Gardner, and Erickson with comprehensive programs for infants, toddlers, two's, three's, four's, and preschoolers.

Pinnacle offers a healthy balance between:

- Quiet and vigorous activities
- Individual and cooperative activities
- Indoor and outdoor activities
- Familiar and new activities

Morning Group

Each day begins with a large group activity.

This large group activity has so many learning benefits it is hard not to want it to last all day. But developmentally, children are not ready to function for long periods of time in a large group. Typically, this activity occurs twice a day for five to ten minutes for twos, depending on the needs and dynamics of the children involved. This time increases as they become older. Learning self-control, communication, socialization, listening skills, math concepts (calendar), memorization (finger plays and songs), and knowledge about the weekly theme (pilgrims to healthy habits) are all aspects of circle time! This is also the time when your child will have the Bible stories and lessons that support our monthly and weekly themes.

Small Group

Small group time offers our teachers the opportunity to work with a few children at one time. We use this time to make sure each child has a special time with their teacher and we are able to closely track their development.

Language

This area develops communication and early reading skills. Learning how to care for books, holding them, and turning a page in sequence are the first important steps in developing a respect for books and reading. Listening, a key learning concept, is also an important skill developed in this area.

Creative Arts

While playing in this area, children learn the concepts of form and shape, and they also gain increased muscle control. One of the biggest benefits of this time of the day is the fact that when they create something here, it is lasting, not like a block tower or finished puzzle! Children need to have their accomplishments and creations become tangible so that they have that "I did it!" feeling validated. Building self-esteem, one piece of artwork at a time, is what this center is all about. In collaboration with the lead teacher, our art teacher works with every class once a week, teaching art concepts such as primary colors, using a variety of fun mediums. It is not unusual to see the toddlers painting with ice cubes on a stick and powdered gelatin, the two-year-old classes taking toy trucks and cars and racing them across a paper with painting drippings, or preschoolers rolling marbles in a long flat box to see the different types of lines they can create.

Math/Manipulatives

This center is designed to build fine motor control, spatial awareness, eye-hand coordination, problem solving skills, and social interaction. Typically set up with tables, children work together in small groups or singularly with puzzles that challenge, Legos® that create, lacing cards that teach, and anything else that requires the children to think while using their fingers!

Dramatic Play

In this popular area, children make great headway in areas of language, social, and emotional development. Imaginative play in this area allows children to take on and explore new roles and to associate between real and the imagined. Learning to function in a group, take turns, and play cooperatively are outcomes for children who master this center.

Science/Sensory

The activities that support this developmental domain allow the children to feel, smell, touch, hear and sometimes taste the medium that teaches the concept. Measuring, pouring, discovering physical properties, and volume are all aspects of this center. This small, hands-on group time reinforces the social concepts of cooperation! Math, science, and motor development are all added benefits of learning in this sand, water, oatmeal, and shaving cream environment. And it is guaranteed that your child will have lots of baking experiences while at MDO!

Blocks

This area helps children learn math concepts like proportion -- two triangles make a square. It also assists children in forming ideas about cause and effect, gravity, and problem solving. Children learn quickly that in order for a tower to "reach for the sky" it needs a large base. The block area is also a great place for our children to socialize and work together while developing motor skills. Using their imagination and fellow-builders, children can turn this area into an airport, castle or even their own neighborhood!

For a look at the lessons your child may experience, click on the following links:

Infant Curriculum Sample

http://www.cceionline.com/pdf/pinnacleSamples/Sample_Faith_Based_Infant.pdf

Toddler Curriculum Sample

http://www.cceionline.com/pdf/pinnacleSamples/Sample_Faith_Based_Toddler.pdf

Two-Year-Old Curriculum Sample

http://www.cceionline.com/pdf/pinnacleSamples/Sample_Faith_Based_Two_Year_Old.pdf

Three-Year-Old Curriculum Sample

http://www.cceionline.com/pdf/pinnacleSamples/Sample_Faith_Based_Three_Year_Old.pdf

Four-Year-Old Curriculum Sample

http://www.cceionline.com/pdf/pinnacleSamples/Sample_Faith_Based_Four_Year_Old.pdf