



## TYPICAL DAY IN A PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM

### Arrival/Small Muscle:

- ☺ Children arrive, hang up coats, bags, etc. and come to a table to work on fine motor tasks such as play-dough, puzzles, snipping, lacing, drawing, sorting, manipulating blocks, and so on. We try to provide a blend of familiar and new activities and allow the students to define their own rules for their use. Limiting the students to only a few choices at this time helps maintain a sense of calm in our room which assists students with separation from parents and mental preparation for learning time.

### SCIENCE WITH JESUS:

- ☺ This is a favorite time of day. Children get to learn about God's love and then we do a fun science experiment, often involving something messy and very exciting that helps to illustrate the Bible story. This is the time of day that parents tell me their child talks most about. How appropriate that their favorite time of day includes the Lord!

### Group Project:

- ☺ With the help of the teachers, the children complete a task that involves following directions and using fine motor skills. Don't be surprised if you can't quite make out what "it" is, it's the process, not the product that matters when young children make things! ☺

### Center Time:

- ☺ Many important skills are mastered during the "free-play" time. The students use nametags as "tickets" to the centers, encouraging the mastery of name recognition. Further, this ticket system requires students to be responsible for ensuring the proper number of students in each center. We do not set guidelines for the amount of time spent in each center allowing, instead, the students to develop their own choice making skills. Centers options may include housekeeping, tool time, activity table, imagination station, blocks, train table, or free art.
- ☺ During center time we frequently have at least one "must-do" center. Must-do centers include activities such as: art or science projects, fine motor skills, educational games, as well as early literacy and math concepts.

### Clean up:

- ☺ Children and teachers put things back in their spots. This helps students learn responsibility for their environment. They are encouraged to check each area to ensure all items are properly put away. This time also builds teamwork skills as students help each other clean up to make sure we "beat the clock."

**Wash up for snack:**

- ☺ Children line up at the door and are given a squirt of hand soap. They rub their hands together as we walk to the school bathroom and wash our hands. This trip down the hall to the bathroom exposes children to the rest of the school and helps them learn the "preciousness of others." In other words, we need to be quiet so other children who are precious can keep on learning. ☺

**Snack:**

- ☺ Snack is a special social time. We begin by thanking the friend that provided the snack and inviting Jesus to be our guest through prayer. The students learn to hold quiet conversations with friends seated at the same table. Snack time introduces us to a variety of new foods and provides another opportunity for students to practice responsibility as they clean up their space.

**Circle Time:**

- ☺ During circle time, we count boys and girls, compare number of girls to number of boys, write numbers on the board, read a letter from the teacher, find the day of the week, sing the months of the year and the days of the week, make a pattern, count and recognize numbers, learn concepts about time (yesterday, today, tomorrow), sing songs and finger-plays, play learning games, and read a story. Whew! It's a lot to do but so much fun!

**Large Muscle Time:**

- ☺ We go outside or to the gym to get those big muscles moving; sometimes we just hang out in the room and move to music! Please don't tell the students, but learning is always happening in our class, even when we are outside or dancing around. We practice our helping skills by assisting our friends with zippers, buttons, hats, and mittens. We also practice patience while waiting for an adult to assist us if our friends aren't successful. Students discover that the faster everyone gets ready, the more time we have to spend outside. Whether we are playing on the playground, in the gym or moving in the classroom, students receive lots of practice taking turns and challenging their own physical skills with climbing, jumping, throwing, catching and swinging.

**Departure:**

- ☺ We meet back in the classroom to say good bye and see you next time. Jesus loves you and so do we!

**Communication:**

- ☺ Frequent newsletters keeps parents informed of classroom happenings. Formal conferences are held twice a year to review student goals.