

PRESCHOOL

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

At our preschool, children are encouraged to explore their environment, discuss their experiences and observations, and participate in a variety of active learning experiences. Our curriculum follows the preschool Curriculum Guidelines developed by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Our center-based thematic approach provides multiple opportunities for children to learn at their own rate through play and meaningful hands-on activities. A sense of community is developed within the classroom as children learn how to interact with peers, share information, and participate in play experiences. It is our goal that children will develop a positive self-image and view school as a welcoming setting where they feel enthusiastic, challenged, inspired, and supported.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Language

Children will:

- Learn to appropriately interact in a group.
- Communicate personal experiences or interest.
- Expand vocabulary.
- Participate in discussions, listen to others, and ask relevant questions.

Reading and Literature

Children will:

- Listen to language sounds to develop auditory discrimination.
- Develop familiarity with the forms of letters and awareness of print.
- Link letters with sounds in play activities.
- Develop an appreciation of a variety of literature and engage in reading comprehension activities.
- Listen to, recognize, and use rhyming and sensory words.

Composition

Children will:

- Use their own words or illustrations to tell a story or describe an experience.
- Add details or make changes to known stories.
- Develop organizational skills focusing on beginning, middle, and end.
- Engage in activities that promote emergent writing skills.
- Generate questions and gather information to answer their questions.

MATHEMATICS

Number Sense

Children will:

- Connect numbers to quantity of objects.
- Listen to and say the names of numbers in meaningful concepts.
- Use positional language and ordinal numbers.
- Observe and manipulative concrete examples of whole and half.
- Identify familiar United States coins.

Patterns, Relations, and Algebra

Children will:

- Explore and describe a wide variety of objects by their attributes.
- Sort, classify or categorize objects by one or more attributes.
- Recognize, describe, reproduce, extend or create a simple pattern.

Shapes and Spatial Sense

Children will:

- Investigate and identify materials of various shapes, using key vocabulary.
- Explore and identify space, direction, movement, relative position and size using body movements and concrete objects.
- Listen to and use comparative words to describe the relationship of objects to one another.

Measurement

Children will:

- Use estimation in meaningful ways.
- Use non-standard unites to measure length, weight, and amount.

Collection and Analysis

Children will:

- Collect, sort, and organize data related to everyday experiences.

SCIENCE

Inquiry

Children will:

- Record observations and share ideas using simple forms of representations.
- Make predictions about an object based upon past experiences.
- Identify and use simple tools to extend observations.

Earth and Space Science

Children will:

- Compare and contrast natural materials.
- Identify the characteristics of local weather based on observations.
- Discuss seasonal and time changes (day and night).
- Explore and discuss sunlight and shadows.
- Explore and discuss what air is and what it does.

Living Things and Their Environment

Children will:

- Use their sense of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste to explore their environment.
- Observe and describe seasonal changes in plants and animals.
- Observe and describe how natural habitats proved for animals' basic needs.

Physical Science

Children will:

- Manipulate and observe, describe and compare the properties of solids, liquids, and gases.
- Explore predictable phenomena, such as balance, floatation, and gravity.

Technology and Engineering

Children will:

- Use materials and tools appropriately.
- Observe ways animals and people use their bodies to accomplish tasks.
- Explore simple machines such as ramps, gears, and pulleys.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Children will:

- Discuss and identify the order of daily routines.
- Discuss and use vocabulary related to time.
- Identify and describe cause and effect as they relate to their own experiences.
- Engage in activities that build an understanding of locational and directional vocabulary.
- Construct and describe simple maps of their neighborhood.
- Talk about the qualities we value in a person's character.
- Discuss classroom responsibilities of daily activities.
- Discuss roles and responsibilities of family or community members who promote safety.
- Observe, discuss, and dramatize basic economic concepts.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Physical Development

Children will:

- Learn the names and describe the function of parts of the body.
- Build body awareness, strength, and coordination through movement.
- Discuss various aids and accommodations used by people.
- Build awareness of directionality and positions in space.
- Develop fine and gross motor skills.
- Use eye-hand coordination, visual tracking, and visual motor skills in play activities.
- Discuss nutritious meals and snacks.
- Practice personal hygiene and safety measures.

Social and Emotional Health

Children will:

- Develop social skills such as recognizing emotions, helping others, and problem solving.
- Talk about problems and how to solve them.

ART

Movement and Dance

Children will:

- Respond to a variety of musical rhythms through movement.
- Explore activities and vocabulary related to movement, balance, strength, and flexibility.
- Participate in sequenced movement and dance.
- Use movement and dance to show feeling and to express themselves.

Music

Children will:

- Sing a variety of songs.
- Listen to and play a variety of instruments and tempos.
- Listen to, imitate, and improvise sounds, patterns, and songs.

Theatre Arts

Children will:

- Use dramatic play, costumes, and props to pretend.
- Create characters, scenes, props, and settings to use in dramatic play.
- Listen to storytellers and watch puppet shows.

Visual Arts

Children will:

- Explore a variety of materials and media to create two- and three-dimensional artwork.
- Explore and experiment with colors and lines and wet and dry media in artwork.

PRIMARY THEMES FOR THE YEAR

- My Family, My Friends, and Me
- All Around the Town
- Our World
- Claws, Paws, Fins, and Legs
- Watch Us Grow!
- Let's Go

THE HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Parental/caregiver involvement is an integral part of a preschool child's educational experience. As a parent/caregiver you can help your child by:

- Taking time each day to talk with your child about school.
- Communicating with teachers regularly.
- Volunteering either in the classroom or by completing tasks at home.
- Attending parent conferences, and other school activities.
- Maintaining a positive attitude about your child's school experience.
- Developing good nutritional, rest, and safety habits.
- Taking educational trips to pursue your child's individual interests.
- Providing age appropriate books and magazines for your child to explore.
- Helping your child develop a love of reading by reading with them on a regular basis.
- Limiting the amount of time your child watches television and uses a computer.
- Visiting and using the public library,
- Establishing predictable routines at home.
- Making play dates with friends.
- Establishing consistent behavior expectations.
- Encouraging your child to expand his/her vocabulary skills.

Maynard Public Schools



A CURRICULUM OVERVIEW YOUR CHILD'S YEAR IN PRESCHOOL



Dr. Mark R. Masterson, Superintendent
Dr. Daniel Mayer, Assistant Superintendent
Jill Greene, Preschool Director/Director of Students Services
Bernadette McLaughlin, Principal, Green Meadow School
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