

PRESCHOOL

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

It is our belief that all children can learn and succeed, although not in the same way or on the same day. This overview for the Green Meadow Preschool curricula has been developed by teachers to serve as another way of communicating with parents. This overview is a statement describing a multitude of experiences that provide foundations for cognitive, social and motor growth while fostering a sense of positive self worth. Experiences are provided which allow for a range of skill development and learning styles and which provide the skills and knowledge the children will need in order to meet the standards in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The center-based thematic instructional approach provides multiple opportunities for children to learn through the context of play in meaningful hands-on activities that occur in their natural environment.

While we have high expectations for all students and encourage each student to work to his/her capacity, parents and teachers recognize that students progress at a different pace. It is the joint responsibility of school and home to provide support for all students.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Language

Students will:

- Learn appropriate ways of interacting in a group.
- Communicate thoughts and ideas.
- Expand vocabulary.

Reading and Literature

Students will:

- Develop auditory discrimination and phonemic awareness.
- Develop concepts of print and acquisition of emergent reading skills.
- Develop an appreciation of a variety of literature.

Composition

Students will:

- Use their own words or illustrations to tell a story or describe an experience.
- Engage in activities that promote emergent writing activities.
- Develop writing organization focusing on beginning, middle, and end.

Media

Students will:

- Use various forms of media to record their activities and share them with others.

Major Projects/Events

- Plays and projects related to curriculum themes.

Major Resources Used:

- Big Books
- Fairy Tales
- Nursery Rhymes
- Early childhood literature related to thematic units

MATHEMATICS

Number Sense

Students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of 1:1 correspondence.
- Associate numerals and words with quantities to at least 20.
- Demonstrate an understanding of comparative language (more than, less than, equal to).
- Rote count to 20.

Patterns, Relations, and Algebra

Students will:

- Extend or create a simple pattern.
- Sort, classify, and categorize by one or more attributes.

Geometry

Students will:

- Name and draw simple two-dimensional shapes.
- Understand directionality and position in space.
- Name three-dimensional shapes.

Measurement

Students will:

- Use mathematical language to compare length, such as longer, taller, or shorter.
- Estimate measurements from everyday life.
- Use non-standard units to measure length.

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

Students will:

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

Major Resources Used

- Manipulatives including unifix cubes, links, counting bears, and blocks.

SCIENCE

Inquiry

Students will:

- Describe objects in terms of a variety of attributes.
- Make predictions about an object based upon past experiences.
- Gather and record data based on observations.

Earth Science

Students will:

- Explore the environment and become familiar with natural materials of earth.
- Recognize and describe local weather.
- Discuss seasonal and time changes (day and night).
- Express ideas about space and space travel.
- Explore the concepts of air.

Life Sciences

Students will:

- Understand that plants and animals are living things that go through a predictable life cycle.
- Understand that some plants and animals lived long ago.
- Engage in active learning experiences related to the five senses.

Physical Science

Students will:

- Examine the properties of solids, liquids, and gases.
- Explore invisible force, gravity, and magnetism.

TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

Materials and Tools

Students will:

- Use materials and tools appropriately.

Engineering: Design

Students will:

- Observe and manipulate simple machines.



HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Living, Learning, and Working Together

Theme/Topics

- All About Me — Provide opportunities to learn about human attributes such as honesty, courage, friendship, and respect.
- My Family and Me — Provide opportunities to develop an understanding of cause and effect as they relate to family experiences.
- My Day at School — Provide opportunities in meaningful routines.
- Community Helpers — Provide experiences that build an understanding of the various types of work members in the community of people.

Neurosensory Development

Students will:

- Integrate body movements with the senses which include tactile / touch, smell, hearing, taste, sight, movement, the sense of balance, and the sense of one's body in space.
- Develop large muscles.
- Strengthen small muscles.

ART

Students will:

- Explore a variety of media, materials, and techniques.
- Develop individual artistic expression through the process of creating art.

MUSIC

Students will:

- Sing alone or with others using a varied repertoire of music.
- Play instruments alone or with others.
- Use movement as a means of musical expression.



THE HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Learning is a continuous process that involves the home as well as the school. Children need to see a relationship between the classroom learning experience and their lives out of school.

It is important for students to develop sound study habits at an early age. Children benefit greatly from the knowledge that parents are interested in and supportive of their education. The following are general guidelines for parental involvement in children's education:

Keep informed of your child's progress by:

- Taking time each day to talk with your child about school.
- Communicating with teachers regularly.
- Scheduling classroom visits.
- Volunteering time in the classroom or by completing tasks at home.
- Attending parent conferences, Open House, and other school activities.

Help your child develop good study habits by:

- Establishing a regular routine for completion of homework.
- Providing a quiet time and place for study.
- Assisting your child with the completion and correction of homework, while ensuring that the final product is reflective of the child's understanding of the assignment.
- Maintaining a positive manner about your child's school.

Develop attitudes that encourage learning by:

- Developing good nutritional, rest, and safety habits.
- Taking educational trips to pursue individual interests.
- Providing books, newspapers, and magazines.
- Encouraging your child to pursue reading and writing for pleasure.
- Using television and computers in educationally appropriate ways.
- Visiting and utilizing the public library.

Maynard Public Schools

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PRESCHOOL

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If you have questions about the curriculum overview, please contact your child's teacher. For additional assistance, please contact your child's principal.