

Welcome to the Bumble Bee class!

3 years

The Bumble Bee classroom will focus on counting, sorting, learning shapes and number and letter recognition through hands on manipulatives and toys. Three year olds are naturally on the go, so they learn best by playing with toys relative to the subject being taught. Real life experiences will also help these children learn, such as counting how many steps we take to get to the door, sorting toys on the playground, counting pebbles or going on a shape hunt around the school. Children are encouraged to explore plastic letters and numbers and talk about their shape. Teachers will help the children name letters and numbers, point them out in the environment and when reading books. The children's names and other words are seen in many areas of the room and they are talked about often.

Most three year olds love to dance, jump and sing. Music time is a daily part of our schedule. Lots of rhythm instruments such as rhythm sticks, tambourines and maracas are available. Other circle time activities include games such as "Simon Says", copy me games, and finger plays like "Where is Thumbkin."

Logic and Comprehension: The children will begin to complete simple 6-12 piece puzzles or more complex puzzles as they become ready for them. Lots of building materials involving gears and linking blocks are available for exploring. The children will have plenty of opportunities to explore their love for reading by looking at board books and listening to short stories (especially interactive ones) in a cozy inviting place.

Self Help Skills: The children are encouraged to practice independence by putting on jackets and clothing with adult help as needed. Adults foster independence by guiding the children during meal times to use utensils independently and practice good table manners.

Language and Cognitive Development: Adults ask questions and talk about the pictures with children when reading books to stimulate the children's linguistic and cognitive development. Many pictures are displayed where children can see and touch them. The children are encouraged to use their words to communicate their needs.

Science and Nature: The children are encouraged to observe, talk and describe what they see. The garden area is available outdoors for children to help plant seeds, water plants and pull grasses. Children are encouraged to look at natural and synthetic materials using magnifying glasses and microscopes. Children have opportunities to dig and play with soil. The children will learn about plant, weather and seasonal cycles through real-life experiences!

Art/Fine Motor: Fine motor skills are developed through coloring/scribbling with crayons. They are also beginning to use other supplies such as glue, paint and crayons within various art activities. Finger painting, easel painting w/ brushes, watercolors, and other non-toxic simple art supplies are available. Activities that allow children to experience textures such as playdough, different fabrics and paper are also incorporated. Rice, sand and shaving cream are also used for tracing and playing.

Imagination Station: The children are encouraged to play and create in their own unique ways. Blocks (wood, shapes and large Legos), Dramatic Play such as dress up, play kitchen, dolls and doll houses are also available.

Outside Activities: The children will develop gross motor skills on a daily basis through outdoor activities. Throwing the ball and catching, games like follow the leader, a mini obstacle course, ride on toys and a toddler slide for climbing are just a few of the activities that will encourage balance and coordination. Swings are also available for enjoying a fun ride in the sunshine!