

Welcome to The Little Hoppers Room!

In The Little Hopper room the children are learning to sit for short periods of time and listen to lessons and stories. This highly curious age lends itself to lots of curriculum when introduced in a fun and hands on way. Children learn about various topics in the content areas of Science, Social Studies, Math and Language Arts through circle time lessons directed by the teacher and small group activities.

Language Arts: Plastic and foam letters are available for free use during choice time. Teachers will encourage children to talk about letters and help the children learn their names and letter sounds. The children begin building knowledge of letter combinations to begin creating words and matching sounds with pictures and objects around the room. We focus strongly on phonemic awareness, which is the understanding of sounds in words. Rhyming, blending sounds, identifying beginning sounds and segmenting words are all phonemic skills we focus on that build the foundation of reading readiness.

Writing: Children are free to draw or write in a way that is enjoyable to them. Children are encouraged to copy letters, draw random letters they know or begin to write letters associating with sounds as their ability level allows. Adults scaffold students learning by prompting and assisting children as needed. Proper tri-grip is encouraged and beginning handwriting skills are introduced.

Math: Children are given multiple opportunities to explore quantity within real life experiences such as passing out forks to the children at lunch or counting a friends place in line. Many types of manipulatives are also available for students to use when exploring shapes, patterning, counting and sorting. Children are beginning to use balances to explore weight and will start comparing heavier and lighter objects. Measurement is introduced using different mediums such as teddy bear counters, paper clips and blocks. The children are also beginning to use manipulatives to explore addition and subtraction.

Music time will be part of the daily routine where children are encouraged to dance, sing and play rhythm instruments. Songs with rhyme and silly words are used to encourage children to hear and distinguish language patterns.

Science and Nature: Our organic garden is a huge part of our science curriculum. The children get many opportunities to plant seeds, water, harvest and pull grasses to help maintain the garden. We learn about how insects can be helpful and sometimes harmful. We also learn about how organic materials break down and nourish the soil for new plants through composting. In addition to gardening, the children participate in hands on science experiments which are not only educational but fun as well!

Art: Construction paper as well as coloring sheets and activity sheets are available for students to choose from. Finger painting, easel painting w/brushes, watercolors, and other non-toxic art supplies are available. Activities that allow children to experience textures such as play-do, different fabrics and paper are also incorporated.

Enrichment: We offer lots of special enrichment opportunities throughout the year. Exciting and educational field trips are offered about once a month. We also offer Spanish classes during the day a couple times a week as well as special guests occasionally throughout the year. Other fun onsite activities include; cooking classes, yoga, pottery painting and special activity days such as field day, circus day, dress up days and more! Tumblebus gymnastics are also available once a week for a small additional fee.

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, cash register/store and felt board play are just a few of the many exciting activities the children will explore!

Outside Activities: The children will develop gross motor skills on a daily basis through outdoor activities. Group games such as “Mother May I”, “Red Light, Green Light” “Hopscotch” and “Finger Tag” are just a few examples of the many fun things the children will play outside! From throwing the ball and catching, to climbing through the mini obstacle course or enjoying the swings on a bright sunny day, there will be many opportunities for outdoor fun at The Lilypad!