



About Our Class Offerings

Parent/Child Classes

These classes meet once a week for an hour. Each five-week session is designed for infants up to 18 months. Children and their parent or caregiver, along with our experienced instructor, will participate in activities to build parent/child bonding, communication and education.

Time With Tots

This class meets once a week for an hour and is specially designed for toddlers 18 to 36 months. Children and their parent or caregiver, along with a teacher, participate in a variety of sensory experiences, dramatic play, stories and more. Siblings are welcome to attend for an additional fee.

All By Myself

For many children, this is their first school experience away from home. Early in the school year, goals for this class include successfully dealing with separation issues, learning how to predict and follow routine, exploring different materials and learning to become a member of the classroom community. Teachers facilitate language skills, socialization and problem-solving abilities. As the year progresses, children work on self-help skills such as cleaning up and taking off their coats, communication and early literacy skills, along with dramatic play experiences and experimentation in art.

This class is for children who turn 2 years old by June 1st. This class has two teachers and a maximum of 10 children and meets two days per week.

3-Year-Olds

As the children become preschoolers, more opportunities for socialization, negotiation and problem solving take place. The curriculum revolves around a theme each week, such as drama, art, language arts, music/movement, math, science and social studies. For example, cooking projects meet the following curricular goals: socialization by following directions and taking turns with peers, language as children are exposed to new vocabulary, math as they measure ingredients and science as raw eggs are cooked, scrambled and changed with food coloring.

Examples of weekly themes include:

- *Colors (Yellow)*: Squeeze lemons, make lemonade and create a lemonade stand. Along with science, the 3-year olds learn about the economic systems of the United States by

beginning to understand the use of trade to obtain goods and services as stated under the learning area of social science in the Illinois Early Learning Standards.

- *Animals*: Read and discuss stories about different types of animals, create artwork using various media depicting animals, have a teddy bear picnic.

This class is for children who are 3 years old by September 1st. There is a 6:1 child-to-teacher ratio, and the class is limited to 16 children. This class meets three or four days a week.

4-Year-Olds

Our older preschoolers are now thinking about and planning their play experiences more than before. Block building is more complex as children sort, compare, make patterns, explore spatial relationships and measure. Trial-and-error experiences are a wonderful way for children to hypothesize and try out their ideas. Language and literacy, such as listening skills, oral expression, beginning sight vocabulary, beginning print skills and early writing ability are promoted through large-group time and calendar discussion, journals, story time and more. The children enhance their learning through field trips to locations such as the beach to explore and collect items for special projects, the police station and the fire house.

Examples of weekly themes include:

- *Winter*: Construct igloos and ice castles, create snow-people artwork, explore real and man-made snow, make stone soup.
- *Harvest Time*: Make applesauce, compare and contrast different apples for color/taste/number of seeds/texture, eat apple then plant its seeds to grow an apple tree, create apple tree artwork.

This class is for children who are 4 years old by September 1st. There is a 7:1 child-to-teacher ratio for this group. This class meets four days a week.