



# MESSIAH

## LUTHERAN SCHOOL

### **Messiah Lutheran Early Childhood Program**

The curriculum of Messiah Lutheran School, at all grade levels, meets or exceeds Missouri State Standards in all areas.

#### **Early Preschool Curriculum Overview**

Early Preschool Classes for children who are 2 by August 1

#### **Overview:**

Discovery and exploration are key as we embrace being two years old. Through the use of themes, children engage in many different experiences as they learn about the world that God created around them. Using a variety of activities, children will explore math, literacy, science, creative representation, music, social skills, and much more.

A large-motor room and outdoor playground are incorporated into lesson plans as well. Opportunities for parent involvement are encouraged and available in a variety of different experiences.

#### **Purpose:**

At Messiah Lutheran Early Childhood Program, we will strive to share the love of Jesus in all we do, as well as:

- Provide pleasant social and developmental experiences in a classroom setting
- Promote a healthy attitude toward school and group activities
- Encourage creative expression in a classroom setting
- Offer activities for developmental growth
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence
- Encourage self-control and growth in self-regulation
- Provide faith-building opportunities

#### **Goals:**

By the end of the school year, our goal is that each child will:

- Know that Jesus loves him/her
- Have acquired age-appropriate social skills
- Successfully use a variety of art and writing media (scissors, crayons, glue, paint, etc.)

- Develops a foundation in literacy by listening to simple songs and stories as well as repeating songs, rhymes, and fingerplays.
- Have acquired a love of school and a desire to learn
- Have experienced success in areas that are of interest to him/her

### **Early Preschool Curriculum:**

Our Early Preschool Curriculum is taught thematically and includes components of the Missouri Early Learning Standards, as well as Curriculum Goals from the Lutheran Elementary School Association of St. Louis (LESA). We weave the message of faith into all subject areas throughout the day.

Each week there is a specific topic or theme on which the children study and learn. Other areas incorporated into each theme include Bible stories, math, science, literacy and reading, art and music, physical education, and much more!

### **Religion:**

God is the creator of the world. He is our friend, and He loves us very much. We can respond to God's love by praying and showing God's love to each other. We will listen to stories from the Bible and sing songs of praise to God. Students will learn what it means to share the faith and live it fully each day. Our Religion materials are from our church-body publisher, Concordia Publishing House. Preschoolers participate in Jesus Time each day, and weekly Chapel services are also held.

### **Science:**

Early Preschoolers are encouraged to develop their sense of wonder to observe and interact with a variety of materials while discovering and noticing God's world around them.

### **Math:**

Children are naturally curious and have a built-in desire to learn first-hand about the world around them. They want to make sense of things and find out how things work. Math concepts are taught throughout each theme as well as by using practical application through everyday activities. Math concepts included in the curriculum include developing an interest in counting and understanding the concept of "one."

### **Language Arts:**

Children are exposed to a variety of literature, including nursery rhymes and poetry. Children are given opportunities to represent their feelings and ideas in a variety of ways. Children are encouraged to listen for different purposes as they listen to others and listen to sounds in the environment. Many opportunities to develop and expand vocabulary are provided as children learn and are exposed to new words. Books are an integral part of each classroom and students are provided lots of opportunities to engage with a variety of texts. Writing materials are available as children develop pre-writing skills and the sense that their marks matter. Listening and speaking skills are developed through the use of stories, sharing their ideas in group

discussion, following oral directions, and taking turns at Circle Time. Language development is encouraged in all play areas and on an individual basis.

**Art, Music, and Creativity:**

Early Preschoolers have opportunities to create with a variety of art mediums. Children are encouraged to create their own unique works of art and have frequent access to the Art Center supplies with a large variety of materials. Each weekly theme includes special projects that children create. Some projects are displayed in the classroom or hallway, and others are sent home. Music is covered in each classroom daily and includes songs, rhythm instruments, movement, and music enjoyment.

**Large and Fine Motor Development:**

Large motor skills are developed with classroom games and movement activities, recess, and gym opportunities that include running, hopping, galloping, marching, balancing, ball skills, parachute, bean bag activities, and much more.

Fine motor skills are developed through the use of writing experiences, lacing, stringing (beads, buttons, etc.), drawing and painting, working with playdough, completing puzzles, puppet use, construction with blocks, and much more.

**Social Growth:**

Children are encouraged to develop their social skills, share, and communicate their feelings and wants. They are encouraged to begin to develop empathy. Self-help skills, such as toileting, dressing and cleaning up after oneself, are also stressed. We strive to foster a warm environment of a classroom community where each child knows he/she is a valued member.

This is a general overview of what happens in our Early Preschool classes.