



Tall Spire Nursery School Program Plan/Curriculum

Welcome to our school! We hope this information sheet will answer any questions you may have about our classroom/school routines. As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us at school. If we cannot speak with you immediately, we will contact you as soon as possible. Every effort is made to keep the children's daily schedule as consistent as possible. A predictable schedule can be very comforting for preschoolers and helps decrease any anxiety they may have when transitioning from one activity to the next. The sequence of our daily activities remains the same while the amount of time at each activity may vary according to the needs of the children. Occasionally we may have special activities which we will plan for and talk about ahead of time to prepare the children for the change in our schedule.

The overall theme for the year is "Let's Discover". Each month we will "discover" as much as we can about a variety of themes. In addition to the monthly theme, designated letters, numbers, shapes and colors will be introduced as well. Our "puppet pals" will make learning the alphabet fun! The schedule for themes for the 2011-2012 school year is:

Let's Discover...

- **September**-“Family, Friends and Me”
- **October**-“Superheroes/Super friends!”
- **November**-“Explorers!”
- **December**-“ All Aboard”
- **January**-“Winter Woodlands with author Jan Brett”
- **February**-“ A Place Called Home”
- **March**-“ Bees, Bugs and Butterflies with author Eric Carle”
- **April**- “ Our Little Inventors”
- **May**- “Architects in the Making”
- **June**- “Summer, Slush and Fun!”

Daily Schedule:

Homeroom (total homeroom time is from 9-10:30am)

9:00-9:20: Arrival/ Free Play - children have a chance to transition from parent to school, participate in morning routine (hanging name card), greet teacher and socialize with homeroom friends

9:20-10:10: Homeroom Activities:

Choose “Center” to play in after “Group”, review of the daily schedule, calendar routine, songs/stories, preparation for any special events, “Let's Discover” thematic activity or game. There is always a “Helper of the Day” that helps with calendar and has the job of “Line Leader” for the day. This job rotates from day-to-day and everyone will get several turns over the course of the year. Our “Let's Discover” activities throughout the school year are based on the various monthly themes as well as seasonal topics and encompass all curriculum areas.

During these “Homeroom” based lessons/ activities; children will explore letters, sounds, basic Language Arts skills, books, numbers, basic math concepts, science, and social science topics.

10:10-10:30: Snack time- children help to pass out cups, napkins and socialize

10:30-10:35- TRANSITION TIME- Homeroom to Group

Group:

10:35-10:45:

Every homeroom meets in the Music room for songs, stories, movement activities, or special events. Children will leave the Music Room with their “Center Time” teacher to go to the “Center” they picked for the day.

10:45-10:50- TRANSITION TIME-Group to Centers

Center Time:

10:50-11:20:

“Center Time” is an exploration time where children have the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities in their chosen “Center”. Activities within the five “Centers” reflect the developmental skills and early childhood program standards essential for a well-rounded preschool experience.

- **Art** - exploration with a variety of age-appropriate materials and media to create two and three dimensional artwork. Explore and experiment with wet and dry media in a variety of colors. Explore the use of texture, use basic shapes and forms of different sizes to create artwork. Create artwork from memory or imagination. All of the focus will be on the process not the product.
- **Music and Movement** – sing songs with rhythmic patterns and repetitive phrases-explore activities related to balance, strength, flexibility and dance. Instrument exploration; learning beats, tempo and sounds. Discovering movement and space through parachute play.
- **Lab (Science)** –learning skills and processes of inquiry and exploration through investigation of all the sciences; Earth/Space, Physical, and Life Sciences. These explorations may include: the study of the environment, our senses, shadows, weather, simple tools, investigating plants, insects and animal habitats. A variety of water table activities will be offered to discover sink/float and measurement.
- **Game Room (Math and Computer)** - activities/learning games focusing on pre- math skills; numbers, patterns, shapes, classifying and sorting. Computer exploration; problem solving, taking turns, directional/positional words, communication and language skills.
- **Dramatic Play** - imaginative play with props, costumes, blocks, toys, etc. to act out, pretend and reenact familiar stories and real life situations. Create scenarios, props, and settings for dramatizations and dramatic play. Listen to stories, talk about characters and use puppets to retell stories.

11:20-11:30- TRANSITION TIME- Centers to Outdoor Play

Outdoor Play: Weather permitting (center time continues if unable to go outside)

11:30-11:50: Outdoor play provides many gross motor activities such as; riding bikes, playing basketball, climbing, jumping, digging- these activities will help promote sound physical development in children to develop both skills and confidence in using their bodies and in turn give support to small muscles in their hands and fingers.

Homeroom:

11:50-12:00:

Children get ready to go home. After getting coats and backpacks, children check their cubbies and meet at the table to discuss the day’s events. Children may leave the classroom when their “grown-up” comes into the classroom.

