

Learning through Discovery and Exploration- Using the Interest Areas

Block Area

This is where Math begins...

- Children learn about eye-hand coordination
- Children learn about spatial relationships and physical properties, like size and weight
- Children learn about symmetry
- Children express ideas and feelings
- Children use language effectively to solve problems
- Children learn to work cooperatively

Language Areas: Reading, Writing, and Listening

This is where Reading and Writing begins...

- Children learn to interpret representations and predict what is happening
- Children learn to comprehend the sequence of ideas in a story and use reasoning to anticipate upcoming events
- When using puppets, and the flannel board to retell a story, children learn to understand, recall, and relate simple story themes and details
- Children learn that reading is fun and valuable and become interested in words and print

Dramatic Play Area

This is where Language begins...

- Children learn to recognize familiar word labels in a meaningful context
- Children learn to use small muscles for self-help skills
- Children learn to understand, appreciate, and accept the diversity of adult roles in families, the community and the world
- Children learn to engage in social conversation, cooperate with peers, and experiment with sharing and solving problems

Science Area

This is where Science begins...

- Children learn to observe, identify, compare and contrast and classify objects, using concepts such as size, weight, color, and texture
- Children learn to develop ability to nurture and an interest in learning about animal habitats and environments
- Children learn to develop their curiosity, expand vocabulary, and use language to gain information about the world

Manipulative (Table Toys) Area

This is where fine motor skills are developed...

- Children use eye-hand coordination
- Children learn to problem solve and make choices
- Children learn to recognize differences and similarities to classify things by size, weight, shape, and color

Art Area

This is where writing and creativity begins...

- Children learn to express ideas on paper
- Children learn to hold and manipulate writing and drawing tools with increasing control and intention
- Children learn to explore the simple science of recognizing changes that occur when colors mix
- Children develop creativity

Sensory Table

This is where learning comes together...

- Children learn to explore and develop a scientific interest and curiosity about things in nature and how they change
- Children learn about the science of causes and effects
- When scooping and pouring, children learn beginning mathematical concepts of measurement, quantity, and volume
- Children observe and investigate

Outdoor Areas

This is where gross motor skills are developed...

- Children learn to adjust to the group's needs by waiting, sharing, and taking turns
- Children learn to be aware of the space needed for movement and the rules pertaining to safety, and well-being of themselves and others
- When kicking, throwing, catching, climbing, running etc., children learn to balance and coordinate movement of eyes, hands, arms, legs, and entire body

Circle Time

This is where listening and learning skills begin...

- Children learn to use language purposefully to explain, express, and exchange ideas and feelings, and gain information
- Children learn to be considerate of the rights of other children and to adapt their own needs to the needs of others in the group