

Goals for 4K

Learn to love school

Love learning, love playing, love reading, love coming to school

Learn to be a positive member of a classroom community

Participating in a group setting, understanding the importance of following classroom rules, working to complete a task, walking in line, getting along with others

Build Strong Foundational Academic Skills

Cognitive thinking, math skills, language/literacy, communication/vocabulary, scientific reasoning, motor skills

Develop a Strong Sense of Self

Confidence, independence, and resilience.

Block Play

Here's what I am learning...

*Problem Solving - I want to build _____, how do I do that?

*Math Skills - measurement, comparison, symmetry, balance..

*Social/Emotional Skills - Turn-taking, cooperation, increased attention span, resilience, confidence, creativity.

*Fine Motor Skills - Small muscles used for writing

*Large motor- Arms, legs, core..

*Language Development - Back and forth interactions with peers, new vocabulary (longer, shorter, taller, enclosure, open...)

Extend your child's play by asking open-ended questions...

*What would happen if...?

*What will you do differently next time?

*Why did you choose to build this

*How did you build that?

*Have you ever seen something like that? What Where?

Dramatic Play

Here's what I am learning...

*Self-Regulation -

*Cooperation - Working with a peer to accomplish a goal.

*Negotiation - "First, you can be the mom, then I'll be the mom."

*Conflict Resolution - "We both want to push the cart, what should we do?"

*Coping Skills - Dramatic play is often how kids make sense of 'real life'. Adults often cope with traumatic experiences by retelling their stories. Children do this by acting them out.

*Language Development- Often for children who are quiet in group situations, role playing is a safe place for children to learn and practice communication skills. Children are also exposed to new vocabulary through dramatic play.

*Math Skills - Children play restaurant and talk about how much the food costs.

*Literacy Skills - When children act out their favorite story, they are increasing their comprehension and developing a deeper understanding for books.

Extend your child's play by asking open-ended questions...

*Why do you think it is important to.....? (go to work, feed the baby, be a doctor...)

*What do you think you could use this for?

*Tell me what you know about _____. (being a firefighter/farmer/astronaut)

Puzzles

(And Other Manipulatives)

Here's what I am learning...

*Fine Motor Development

*Hand-eye Coordination

*Problem Solving

*Logical Reasoning

*Spatial Awareness

*Cognitive Skills

*Improved Memory and
Attention Span

*Self -Esteem

*Teamwork

*Shape Recognition

*Language/Communication
Skills

*Negotiation

Visual Discrimination -The ability to detect differences in objects, the ability to classify/categorize/sort objects, the ability to recognize patterns.

*A child who is lacking in visual discrimination, may have a hard time identifying numbers and letters because they do not notice the small differences between similar letters/numbers.
(Ex. h/n or 5/6 or j/i, 6/9...)

How to help a child find success in puzzle play...

*"I notice this piece has a straight edge. I wonder if it goes by another piece with a straight edge."

*"I notice this piece is part of the firetruck's wheel. Can you find another piece with a wheel?"

*"Let's flip all the pieces right-side-up before we begin."

Sensory Table

Here's what I am learning...

- *Exploration/Curiosity/Creativity - Children are free to use the materials how they choose and often think of things that adults would not.
- *Spatial Skills - Kids pour beans from a small cup to a big cup. How many scoops does it take to fill the bowl?
- *Fine Motor Skills - Using tweezers, picking up small beans, pouring water from one cup to another...
- *Language/Conversation Skills - The sensory table is a great conversation starter. We use new vocabulary when describing what we are doing and playing with.
- *Self-Regulation - The sensory table has a calming effect for many.

Extend your child's play by asking open-ended questions...

- *What would happen if _____?
- *Why do you think the teacher chose to put this in the sensory table today?
- *How else could we use these materials?
- *What is something you would put in the sensory table if you were the teacher?

Large Group

Here's what I am learning...

- *How to be a part of a group - Listening, waiting turns, hand-raising, sitting, increasing attention span, self-regulation. All these skills will help a child be ready to learn when they begin kindergarten.
- *Belonging - Children develop a deep sense of belonging and self-worth while being a part of a group. Children develop confidence and resilience when they feel a sense of belonging.
- *Cognitive Skills - Counting on a calendar, number recognition, counting on 10-frames and an abacus, letter recognition, vocabulary development. Our brains are fully engaged!

Large Group Includes - Calendar Time, Phonics (letter introduction), Phonemic Awareness Curriculum, and Singing Songs and Nursery Rhymes...

Story Time

Here's what I am learning...

- *How to be a part of a group - Listening, waiting turns, hand-raising, sitting, increasing attention span, self-regulation. All these skills will help a child be ready to learn when they begin kindergarten.
- *Language Development - Exposure to new vocabulary and ideas. Children are shown how to recognize words and ideas they don't understand and how to question to find out more. Children hear rhyming, alliterations, and rhythms in stories- these are all critical for learning to read.
- *Predicting/Summarizing - Children predict what will happen next or what would happen next if something changed. Children summarize the story by using words such as first, then, next, and last.

Repeated Reads - We often read the same book several times during the week. We focus on different aspects of the book during each read: Storyline, rhyme and rhythm, difficult vocabulary and ideas, social/emotional ideas, retelling from illustrations... Using repeated reads allows children to develop a deeper understanding of the story.

- *Children often enjoy the story more after they have had a chance to read it more than once.

Coloring & Art

Here's what I am learning...

Fine Motor Development– Using scissors, coloring, painting, beading, squeezing a glue bottle are all good ways to practice fine motor skills.

Following Directions– Being able to independently follow 2 or 3 step directions is one of the goals for preschool. "First cut this paper, then glue it here."

Being Creative– Sometimes kids are given materials and they get to decide what to do with it.

Reinforcing a Lesson– We might make a book showing the life cycle of a pumpkin or put pictures to retell the story of Goldilocks.

Different types of "art" we do at school:

Process Art– Process Art is given its name because it's more about the "process" than the "product". Kids are given a few different materials (paint, paper, brushes, glue, scissors, glitter...) and are free to create what they want.

Directed Drawings– I sit across from the kids with my picture on a clipboard and tell them exactly what to do. "First, you draw a line right here. Now you do it." "Next, start with your marker on this line and draw up and over. Now you do it." **Directed drawings are great for teaching pre-writing skills. Practicing how to look at a line then making that same line is great for learning how to write.

Crafts– These types of projects are good for following directions, reinforcing concepts we are talking about in class, and practice using a scissors, glue, etc... Sometimes with crafts, it can feel like the teacher is doing more of the project than the child is, and that is something I try not to do too often.

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