



The Park School of Buffalo

Curriculum Guide

Pre-Kindergarten

Revised September 2019

The pages of this packet provide highlights of the Park School Pre-Kindergarten curriculum. These are highlights only. Please contact the School if you would like further information.

The Early Education curriculum is broken into two important components. They are **Play** and **Teacher Directed Gatherings**.

Play

Play is an integral component of the curriculum in the Early Education program. The children are given the opportunity to travel in and out of various centers throughout the day. During this time the children are enhancing skills as well as interacting with a variety of toys and friends.

Sociodramatic Play

Sociodramatic play occurs in the housekeeping corner and while the children play with the dress up clothes. While the children explore these centers they:

- Act out real life situations
- Identify and experiment with adult roles
- Communicate their ideas to a group
- Learn to negotiate with their friends
- Experiment with various occupations

Manipulative Play

The children engage in manipulative play at the tables in the kitchen room. Manipulative toys include peg boards, geo boards, puzzles, Legos, links, etc. The skills that manipulative play develop are:

- Fine motor
- Hand/eye coordination
- A sense of spatial relationships
- Basic number concepts
- Patterning
- Problem solving

Art Centers

The children have the opportunity to express themselves through art at the paint easel, drawing table and with clay. They also have the opportunity to partake in various art projects throughout the day. The art centers allow the children to:

- Freely express themselves
- Experiment with their senses

- Release emotional tensions and frustrations by squeezing, rolling, pounding, etc.
- Develop hand/eye coordination
- Experiment with their own ideas
- Discover new and interesting things to do with the use of materials.

Writing Center

The children may explore the writing table during free play. The writing table includes pencils, markers, crayons, model letters, stencils and various writing materials. The writing table gives children the opportunity to:

- Develop fine motor coordination
- Learn how to hold a pencil
- Experiment with letter formation
- Identify letters
- Express themselves through writing
- Create stories

Language Centers

The language centers include the library corner and the listening center. While the children are enjoying the language centers they are:

- Developing pre-reading skills
- Developing the ability to listen to stories
- Increasing their attention span
- Increasing their vocabulary
- Learning to enjoy and handle books

Block Centers

The building block centers are located in the large muscle room. These include a set of wooden blocks and a set of cardboard brick blocks. As the children build they are:

- Learning a sense of gravity, stability and weight
- Designing, patterning and creating art
- Communicating socially
- Recreating communities and designing the world around them
- Classifying, measuring, sequencing and patterning.
- Creating stories and dramatic play to coincide with their creations.

Gross Motor Centers

Gross motor centers include the climber, balance beam, balancers, tricycle and the boat in the large muscle room. The children also explore gross motor movements on the playground and with various items outside. The gross motor centers allow the children to:

- Practice balancing skills
- Develop gross motor skills
- Explore cooperative play
- Release extra energy

Science Centers

The science centers include the science table and the aquarium. The children may observe and participate in the happenings at these centers daily. While they do so they are:

- Broadening their exposure to the world around them
- Experimenting with sensory experiences
- Recognizing and solving problems
- Making observations, describing and predicting
- Increasing their vocabulary

Music, Sound and Movement

Music, sound and movement are incorporated into our lessons daily. In addition to this the children have the opportunity to explore the instrument/music center. This allows the children to:

- Increase their ability and willingness to sing
- Develop listening skills
- Express their thoughts and feeling through music and sound
- Recognize different instrument and the sounds that they make
- Develop large and small muscles
- Learn concepts such as fast and slow, high and low, and soft and loud

Teacher Directed Gatherings

Teacher directed group activities are also a part of our curriculum. These times include morning meeting, gathering, letter of the week and VIP tell and show.

Morning Meeting

During morning meeting the VIP updates the calendar, weather and season tree. During this time the children are developing skills such as:

- Numeral recognition and number order
- Enumeration
- Recognition of sight words (days of the week, months and season)
- Concepts of first, next, last
- Concepts of yesterday, today and tomorrow
- Left to right progression
- Simple alternating patterns

VIP Tell and Show

Each VIP is given the opportunity to bring in a special item or toy from home to share with all of the friends on their special day. This develops many skills such as:

- Building confidence
- Public speaking
- Creating a social sharing time
- Participating in a group
- Enhancing basic listening skills

Letter of the Week

Our Letter of the Week program exposes children to upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet. During our Letter of the Week share time children are given the opportunity to share their letter journals and letter boxes with the group. This develops skills including:

- Letter recognition
- Letter formation
- Sound/symbol associations

Gathering

During gathering the children listen and participate in activities that typically focus around a theme. Gathering often includes songs, stories and games. During gathering the children are:

- Developing listening skills
- Participating in a group
- Expressing themselves to the group
- Learning basic skills developed around a theme
- Learning to sit for short periods of time

Specials

In addition to the curriculum provided in the bungalow the Early Education children are also given the opportunity to go to specials daily. At specials the children become a part of the whole Park School community where they learn to work with their specials teachers. The specials schedule is:

Our Schedule

8:00	Morning Free Play
9:20	Morning Meeting
9:40	Snack
10:10	Specials
11:00	VIP Tell and Show/Letter Box
11:30	Gross Motor Free Play
12:00	Gathering
12:45	Lunch
1:15	Fine Motor Free Play
2:15	Storytime, Closing Circle and Rest
3:00	Dismissal