

4K CURRICULUM
TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL
824 WISCONSIN AVENUE
SHEBOYGAN, WI. 53081

PLAY

Play is the most natural vehicle young children use for developing and learning. Being active seekers of knowledge, children use play to internalize and understand their environment. A broad range of learning (including promoting the development of intelligence) may flourish when children are involved in constructive play. Young children are less able to use language as a means of understanding their own thoughts and feelings, so they use play to gain an internal sense of mastery over their environment. Until children have comfortable control of their social communication, play acts as a prime channel by which children's thoughts and feelings are communicated to others.

Through observation of children's play, adults can understand the level of complexity of children's thought processes and the intensity of children's feelings. Through observation, adults are aware of how involved children are in their play. When children play, they show an intensity of concentration and involvement that seems to enclose them in a special world. The role of a teacher, for this age group, becomes one of being a facilitator of play, an observer of development, and a guide for the development and growth taking place.

SPIRITUAL NURTURE – LEARNING TO BE CHILDREN OF GOD

This area involves happenings of the heart. The child learns what it means to be a child of God. The instructional emphasis helps the child grow in a faith as a loved and redeemed child of God. It provides for concrete expression as a vehicle to cognitive understanding of God and His promises. This area provides worship experiences utilizing the child's senses as the child becomes emotionally aware of God in the world around him/her.

Basic Text: Voyages Exploring God's Word – Concordia Publishing House

Puppets, finger plays, dramatization, songs, games, posters, story telling, and other visual aids are used to make it meaningful.

COMMUNICATION ARTS – Language, Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening

This area encourages play and other experiences as springboards of communication in oral and written forms. It provides opportunities and materials for oral, written, and dramatic expression and interpretation of feelings based on the experiences and expression of others. This enables the child to value the communication with others and to respect that others may communicate in a different way.

Here, each child is encouraged to continue at a rate comfortable for him/her thus assuring a high degree of success and enjoyment. A wide variety of instructional activities provide for individual learning styles as well as varying language proficiencies.

Basic texts: Voyages Exploring God's Word - Concordia Publishing House; Peabody Language Development – Level P – American Guidance, inc., Trade Books, Teacher Created Materials, Inc., Early Childhood Units for the Alphabet, Handwriting – Zaner-Bloser

EXPRESSIVE ARTS – Music, Movement, Drama, and Art

This area provides the child with an enriched interpretation of the world around him/her. Through these means, the child is given an opportunity to express and understand DISCOVERY and SPIRITUAL NURTURE. The instructional emphasis promotes the development of a positive self concept through self expression. It provides for individual thinking as well as enabling the child to discover methods of releasing feelings and energy in a constructive and self-controlled way. The child is also able to develop his ability to appreciate beauty in God's world and experience a sharing of the beauty with others.

Text: Voyages Exploring God's Word – Concordia Publishing House; Little Ones Sing Praise – Concordia Publishing House; Macmillan Early Skills Program; Sing a Song of Popcorn – Every Child's Book of Poems – Scholastic Inc.

WELLNESS – Play, Health, Safety, Nutrition, Large Motor and Behavior

Here the areas of spiritual, physical, emotional and social are integrated, enabling the child to move toward responsibility and independence. Library books and various teacher resources are used for instruction.

DISCOVERY – Science, Social Studies, and Math

This area encourages the child to develop problem solving skills and strategies. Here the child is helped to understand and appreciate other people, their cultures and their contributions to the world. This begins from the child's world to the community, and to places beyond. This emphasis explores relationships between people so we can learn to live together.

Text: Voyages Exploring God's Word – Concordia Publishing House;
Scholastic News; library books; various teacher resources

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

We are all forgiven children of God, and because of this gracious gift of forgiveness, each of us has the potential to control our own actions for the good of ourselves and of the group. For children who are just beginning to learn to function in a group, prevention of problems of behavior is much more effective than trying to reverse any negative behavior after it is once established. In order to prevent negative behavior, simple guidelines are established in the classroom. These may include:

- 1) Respect each other's space and property.
- 2) Move about quietly (at times) and carefully.
- 3) Speak in pleasant, easy to understand voices.
- 4) Listen quietly when another person is speaking.
- 5) Be polite and wait your turn – raise your hand.