

Songbird Program Plan

Sandcastle Child Care is licensed for 60 preschool children. The preschool classrooms are divided into four different rooms. The Songbird classroom is a Pre-school classroom and the children are 3 plus years old when in this classroom. Songbirds use the Project Early Kindergarten approach in their classroom. They use the Doors Curriculum and Every Day Math. There is a teacher/child ratio of 1 to 8 in this classroom.

Sandcastle Child Care hours are 6:30 a.m. to 6:00p.m., Monday through Friday, 12 months per year. We provide the children with age appropriate experiences.

Children are supervised at all times by a qualified staff person. Staff interact with the children during play and activities while providing age appropriate learning experiences for each child's physical, intellectual, social and emotional developmental needs in a loving, caring environment.

Our program is arranged to accommodate children individually, in small groups, and large groups, to facilitate a wide variety of activities and experiences. Staff encourage child selected activities and experiences, while required participation in group activities is limited.

Early Childhood Workshop

Overview

The Early Childhood Workshop (ECW) is an emergent, standards-based framework which utilizes child data and a variety of early childhood curricula resources to plan instruction. The ECW model aligns with the structures children will later encounter in Readers and Writers Workshops. Learning activities are created with the understanding that children are inherently competent, curious and social. Teachers develop clearly defined learning objectives, based on an identified standard, and children's individual data, based on formal assessments and teacher observations.

Classroom activities are linked to the interest and current knowledge of children; they ensure children have the opportunities to interact with materials, other children and supportive adults. Activities are focused on investigations, which encourage students to use resources for problem solving. Learning activities are organized around an area of study designed to build on children's interests and background knowledge. Typically, the area of study is four weeks in length, but may extend if the interest and needs of the children indicate its relevance.

The area of study permeates the day and classroom. Teachers co-create learning centers with children and determine next steps by observing children's investigations. Learning goals and activities are appropriately sequenced to allow each child to effectively integrate and retain new knowledge.

Ease into the Day

The Early Childhood Workshop begins with Ease into the Day. Each child's day begins with a personal connection and greeting from a teacher.

Following the greeting, teachers assist children as they sign in for the day, providing scaffolding supports based on individual needs. Teachers further facilitate the transition from home to school by intentionally creating an environment for calm, quiet activities while engaging in extended conversations, facilitating peer interactions, monitoring the classroom and providing support as needed.

Ease into the Day provides a predictable ritual and routine, which allows children to make a smooth transition from home to school while building relationships with both teachers and peers.

Morning/Afternoon Meeting

Morning/Afternoon Meeting exists to build community in the classroom while delivering instruction of core content. The teacher and children sit in a circle to foster direct communication among all class members. The everyday elements of the meeting are greeting, daily message and read aloud. Additional instructional strategies will usually be incorporated.

Daily Schedule

6:30-8:00	Arrival
8:30-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-9:30	Sign in/Ease into the Day
9:30-10:30	Large Motor/Outside
10:30-10:50	Morning Meeting
10:50-11:15	Small Group
11:15-11:30	Bathrooms/ Lunch Prep
11:30-11:50	Lunch
11:50-12:30	Active Learning
12:30-12:45	Regroup to revisit
12:45-1:00	Bathroom/Nap prep
1:00-3:00	Nap time
3:00-3:10	Bathroom
3:10-3:30	Snack Time
3:30-4:30	Large Motor/Outside
4:30-5:30	Active Learning
5:30-6:00	Read aloud/Departure