

Construction Zone

What kids learn...



- Math concepts- Geometry – shapes; Measurement – size, height, width, length, space, area, perimeter, counting, adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, graphing, sorting, categorizing, comparing, planning
- Science concepts- balance, symmetry, gravity, velocity, inclines, bridging
- Physics- balance, weight, pressure, levers, hinges, pulleys, velocity, gravity
- Safety issues – personal space; personal safety- hard hats; fire safety, road safety - traffic signs, speed limits, seat belts
- Aesthetic design
- Spatial relations – prepositions such as over/under/behind/next to/above/in front of
- Language development – vocabulary for specific block names and shapes as well as types of buildings (castles, skyscrapers, malls, houses, apartment buildings etc.)
- Literacy- books about buildings, architecture, construction sites & equipment, posters depicting architectural structures
- Fine motor skills- eye-hand coordination (working puzzles, fitting interlocking pieces together)
- Cognitive skills- matching, sorting, or classifying by single characteristic such as color, shape, size or usage; or combinations of the characteristics; creating or following patterns; cause and effect; designing and planning
- Cooperative play- sharing materials and space; working together to build/design; waiting for turns
- Language development- descriptions of designs, including process and purpose; vocabulary relative to materials and tools associated with their use or construction
- Problem solving, Predicting, Creativity



Home-like Area

What kids learn...

- Learning how to relax and “distress” themselves.
- Provides a space for quiet, contemplative time.
- Provides opportunities to read for pleasure and see and hear different styles/forms of books.
- Language development- new vocabulary from books; rhymes; alliteration concepts of title, author and illustrator; dictating stories (either ones heard before or new ones)
- Cognitive development- re-telling stories that have been read; predicting endings to stories or what the story is about by looking at the cover; making up different endings to stories, problem solving
- Cooperative play- reading stories together, taking turns having stories read
- Dramatic play- acting out stories read
- Creative expression- drawing or painting pictures in the art area or designing buildings in the block area that correspond to the characters or places in the stories
- Listening skills
- Supports emergent writing skills – provides materials and space to work at writing, tracing, copying
- Supports writing skills- provides materials and opportunities to write with a purpose in mind (e.g. signs, notes, names, recording information, taking turn lists)
- Small motor development- provides a variety of writing tools (different sizes of pencils, pens, markers to meet the needs of young writers)
- Language and literacy development- vocabulary associated with the activities and accessories at the writing tables; concepts of capital and lower case letters, beginning phonemic awareness
 - Cognitive development- name recognition (first and last); beginning words from stories and life, color recognition by using different colored inks, pencils and markers, design differences of stamps from other countries; geographical and cultural concepts from having pen pals in other classrooms; concepts of time, distance, written history
 - Cooperative learning- writing notes to others, sharing notes with others



Creative Arts Area

What kids learn...



- Creativity- free choice of materials, color combinations, medium and style
- Mathematics- shapes, sizes, forms, designs, space, planning, measuring, patterns
- Language development- descriptions of creations and processes;

understanding of words related to artistic forms (painting, drawing, collage, printing, details, movement etc.) as well as spatial concepts (over, under, next to, bordering, covering, framing, extending, hiding etc.)

- Cognitive development- reasoning behind choices; recall of past experiences as well as planning for future events; understanding of various medium forms, their stability, predictability; colors and shades;
- Science- wet and dry principles, weight, pressure, transformations (blending & mixing colors)
- Motor functions (provides experiences to stimulate both fine and large motor capabilities) through painting, gluing, cutting, working with clay, taking pictures, drawing, dancing, moving, painting or doing other work to music; making necklaces or stringing objects
- Cooperative play- sharing materials, space, taking turns, working together on projects
- Sensory- finger painting, working with clay, play dough, glop, or glue, using scissors with different types of paper/materials.



Dramatic Play Area

What kids learn...

- Socialization, Social Development, and Positive Peer Interactions
- Cultural Competency: foods from other cultures, non-stereotypic career puppets, service to others
- Mathematics- one on one correlation (setting the table); adding money and giving change using the cash register.
- Creative expression- role playing, changing or adapting scenarios from previous experiences at home, in the classroom or from field trips, using the imagination
- Language development- conversations (in person, and using telephones); vocabulary expansion by using materials in area (e.g. house, doctor's office, hospital, zoo, campground, fire station, laboratory, garden, beach or vacation house, post office or restaurant materials)
- Cooperative play- sharing materials, negotiating roles and story lines, taking turns, sharing space
- Problem solving
- Predicting
- Literacy- using signs and symbols to communicate with- (notes posted on the door, writing shopping lists, prescriptions, recipe cards, menus, takeout orders, homework, directions; mail delivered and sent)
- Science- changing properties (freezing, thawing or cooking food);



Science Area

What kids learn...

- Exploration and examination (both indoors and outdoors)
- Cause and effect
- Predictions
- Problem solving
- Changes in physical forms or properties
- Classification and sorting of animals
- Habitats
- Photosynthesis
- Magnetism
- Magnification – magnifying glasses/microscopes.
- World Geography – globe.
- Anatomy and Physiology – x-rays, and anatomy models
- Chemical reactions (creating a volcano with baking powder, food coloring and vinegar; explaining cohesion by using water, pepper and dish detergent or droplets of water on waxed paper)
- Language expression- descriptions of experiences; vocabulary specific to the explorations (be sure to use actual scientific language and tools)
- Mathematics- measuring and graphing growth or changes – scales.



- Literacy- books about science and animals, writing narratives about the experiences or experiments; writing down predictions and then comparing them to the actual results; having related books in the area to refer to.
- Art – Science rubbing plates.

Music & Movement Area

What kids learn...

- Language development- vocabulary – songs, rhymes, names of instruments, types of music (country, cajun, zydeco, classical, rap, reggae, pop, etc.) positions (when doing movement activities e.g. under, over, next to, raise, lower, around, across, between), body parts, and types of accessories for movement activities (streamers, scarves, ribbons etc.)
- Listening skills- following directions; listening for tones or specific instruments when listening to different types of music; feeling the rhythms of the music; repeating rhythm patterns; creating rhythms; self control
- Cooperative play- sharing materials, taking turns in games, working in pairs to dance or do activities
- Creative expression- dancing, moving to music, writing, painting or drawing about music or musical experiences; writing music or lyrics
- Science- using music to explore tones and sounds (different types of glasses (glass and plastic) with different levels of water; exploring density and properties of objects, e.g. using different sized containers to make drums & comparing their sounds; exploring the effect of different amounts of rice or beans when making rice bags or tambourines, trying to balance movement accessories; conceptualizations of air, density and acceleration
- Mathematics- sequencing (what comes next in terms of patterns/rhythms),



- using shapes to dance with (scarves of different shapes/sizes); sizes (e.g. large and small steps); measuring/sorting and comparing different movement accessories
- Large motor- coordination, balance, working in tandem with someone else, sense of space and movement
- Fine motor- manipulating and working with instruments, finger plays, rhythms

Gross Motor Area

(Playground and Gymnasium)

What kids learn...

- Physical development- coordination, balance, strength, stamina
- Health education- exercise, warm ups, cool down periods, respiration, heartbeat, isometrics, muscles, diet related information (energy foods like pasta), relaxation techniques
- Language development- vocabulary related to activities, exercises, health education, and all the accessories used
- Cooperative play- taking turns, sharing materials, games and rules, exercising together
- Mathematics- usage of shapes as activity areas or materials during activities; counting the number of times a ball bounces (on ground or on parachute); graphs or charts depicting the children's favorite sports or games
- Science- concepts of speed, air, wind, movement, pressure, density and weight
- Problem solving - (running obstacle courses, racing against a timer, finding a seat during musical chairs); figuring out where to play a game or create a space for an activity indoors



- Predicting - How many times can you bounce a ball on a parachute without having it fall off? How many times can I spin around before I begin to feel dizzy? How many jumping jacks or sit-ups can I do before I get tired?
- Literacy- books about sports and games, biographies about Olympic athletes; writing class or individual stories about favorite activities.

Sensory Exploration Area

(measuring cups, funnels, spoons w/ sand /water/corn meal/dirt/popcorn kernels/dried beans/beads/ shredded paper)

What kids learn...

- Mathematics- volume, measurement, space, comparisons, sorting, shapes
- Physics- motion and acceleration (water wheels), overflow, properties of solids and liquids, transformations, forms
- Language development- opposites (wet/dry, empty/full, over/under, sink/float), tools and implements (e.g. eye droppers, pipes, hoses, sieves, shovels, containers, measuring materials)
- Problem solving skills
- Cooperative play (sharing materials & space, working together)
- Sensory experiences- textures, smells, colors, sounds
- Predicting
- Archeology – digging, sifting, sorting, categorizing, charting
- Creative expression- drawing, painting or writing about the experiences at the sensory table
- Reading area- books related to math concepts, shapes, mixing colors, dinosaurs, plants, cooking



- Science area - taking dirt from sensory table and using it to plant seeds
- Cooking area- taking materials like the ones in the sensory table & examining characteristics, then using them to cook with & comparing the characteristics after cooking (e.g. taking dry beans, soaking, cooking & tasting them; using pasta & doing the same; taking water, adding flavoring & freezing into popsicles). This ties in with many skills listed above.

Snack Area

What kids learn...

- Socialization
- Healthy lifestyles
- Provides opportunities to see, prepare, and enjoy different styles/forms of food from different cultures.
- Social Development: Table Manners, Being Responsible for Own Messes, Cultural Diversity, Self-Discipline, Aesthetics, Community Responsibility, Maturity.
- Fine motor skills- eye-hand coordination (pouring juice, using tongs, filling containers)
- Cooperative play- sharing serving utensils/materials and eating space; working together to prepare/clean; waiting for turns
- Language development- asking for help, dinner conversation, new vocabulary from new foods,



- Cognitive development- reasoning behind choices – types and amounts of food.
- Health education- nutrition, fat content, diet related information (energy foods like pasta), sugar content, freshly grown vegetable and fruit.

Games Area

What kids learn...

- Skill building: math games (counting, dice, money, & moves) & science games like Animalopoly.
- Strategy building.
- Planning
- Decision Making
- Predicting
- Strategic Problem Solving
- Logic
- Socialization
- Interpersonal competence
- Peaceful Conflict Resolution
- Provides opportunities to play games from different cultures.
- Social Development: Coping with loss, Community, Maturity, Teaching others how to play a game
- Fine motor skills- eye-hand coordination (moving small pieces)
- Cooperative play- sharing and waiting for turns



- Language development- reading directions, asking for help, new vocabulary from new games, literacy games like Scrabble.
- Cognitive development- cause and effect, trial and error.