



PLAY. LEARN. GROW.

Curriculum Overview

**Woodhome Preschool Center formulated our curriculum with guidance from the MSDE
(Maryland State Department of Education)**

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Overview

The staff at Woodhome Preschool Center understand that your little learner's future starts with a solid learning foundation that builds confidence for kindergarten and beyond! Our curriculum is developed with student success at the forefront in conjunction with Maryland Early Childcare educational standards.

Within each broad goal area, objectives are included that provide guidance in planning purposeful instruction. The curriculum is designed to enable children to acquire knowledge, skills and processes and apply them in meaningful ways which enhance their preschool experience.

The progression through each program, in sequential order, over the course of a 2-4-year preschool experience strategically aligns little learners for future academic success and provides them with self-confidence to embrace an education beyond preschool.

2-year-old Curriculum: Discovering Their World

To help develop language and literacy skills, teachers:

- Describe what they are doing as well as what the child is doing, so that children will connect words to actions.
- Create a print-rich classroom environment with labeled materials to allow children to begin to understand that print conveys meaning.
- Read aloud daily, as well as allow independent exploration of books.
- Ask questions about books and encourage interaction during reading.
- Sing songs/rhymes daily.
- Encourage pretend play and participation with other children.
- Allow opportunities to experiment with writing materials and valuing scribbles.
- Explore colors and create a color book.

To introduce early math concepts, teachers:

- Use math words such as heavy and light, big and small, long and short.
- Provide opportunities to count while touching a variety of objects. For example, "How many cows do we have in the block area?"
- Provide opportunities to explain if something is more or less, first or last. For example, "Is that more or less than the number of sheep we have in the block area?"
- Allow independent exploration of sorting materials.

To introduce science concepts, teachers:

- Provide opportunities to explore a variety of materials and tools in a sensory way and ask questions that encourage children to predict what will happen if ____.
- Provide opportunities to explore light and shadows.
- Provide opportunities to observe and describe weather.
- Introduce conversations that help children name and describe body parts.

To encourage creative arts exploration, teachers:

- Offer a variety of music to listen to and move freely to
- Allow opportunities to explore a variety of musical instruments.
- Allow ongoing exploration of a wide variety of age-appropriate art materials.
- Offer opportunities to participate in pretend or imaginative play.

To develop strong social-emotional skills, teachers:

- Model empathy encourage children to imitate comforting behaviors.
- Model impulse control, and validate children's emotions, as well as model alternative reactions that will allow children to self-soothe in the future.
- Provide children with words to express both positive and negative emotions.
- Allow children opportunities to demonstrate independence and do some self-care routines themselves.
- Provide a consistent daily schedule and routine.
- Model conflict resolution and provide children with words to use instead of physical actions.

To boost physical growth, teachers:

- Encourage children to use spoons or forks to feed themselves instead of fingers.
- Offer opportunities to participate in physical play both indoors and outdoors.
- Introduce different writing materials for children to practice making marks on paper.

3-year-old Curriculum: Purposeful Play and Learning

To support language and literacy skills, teachers:

- Help children listen to and follow simple multi-step directions.
- Model and teach children how to ask questions.
- Teach children how to hold a book and turn the pages from left to right.
- Read together during group time.
- Sing songs with rhyming and repetition to build vocabulary and encourage phonological awareness.
- Have descriptive conversations that help increase communication skills and vocabulary.
- Help children recognize and write their first name.
- Introduce children to upper-case and lower-case letters. Introduce letter sounds.

To encourage mathematical exploration, teachers:

- Sing songs, teach finger-plays and engage nursery rhymes that include numbers.
- Use mathematical language, such as large/small, under/over, up/down to describe position and location.
- Provide toys that engage children in exploring size and shape, such as blocks.
- Provide tools to measure objects such as scales, rulers, measuring tapes, timers, and measuring cups.
- Count with children and touch each object as they count. Explore numbers 1-10.
- Create a number book.

To promote scientific learning, teachers:

- Ask children to compare different objects found in nature.
- Read non-fiction books about pets, plants, bodies, water, etc., according to the theme.
- Explore fun science in the classroom environment.

To encourage creative arts exploration, teachers:

- Offer a variety of music to listen to and move freely to.
- Allow opportunities to explore a variety of musical instruments.
- Allow ongoing exploration of a wide variety of age-appropriate art materials.
- Offer opportunities to participate in imaginative play in the dramatic play spaces.

To help children develop and practice social-emotional skills, teachers:

- Provide children with opportunities to lead and gain a sense of independence through classroom jobs and making choices throughout their day.
- Read books that are related to helping children describe and understand their feelings.
- Model appropriate interactions and help children develop the language to express their emotions.
- Play games that encourage children to stop and go, thereby controlling their actions. For example, games like Simon Says and Red-Light Green Light, which require children to think before they can act.

To promote healthy physical development, teachers:

- Provide balls, bean bags and materials for children to roll, throw, bounce, and catch.
- Encourage children to collect, dump, and fill small objects, whether they are natural materials like leaves, seeds, shells, and rocks or they are toys to bring outdoors.
- Offer opportunities to participate in physical play both indoors and outdoors.

4-year-old Curriculum: Kindergarten Preparedness

To support language development and emergent writing skills, teachers:

- Encourage children to use more complex sentences.
- Encourage children to contribute to group conversations.
- Encourage children to retell familiar stories.
- Help children recognize and write their own name in print (first and last).
- Help children recognize most/all uppercase and lowercase letters and sounds.
- Encourage children to tell stories, dictate their stories to their teachers, and use invented spellings to label their work.
- Explore rhyming and color words. Learn colors in Spanish.
- Begin sight word recognition. Create a sight words book, if appropriate.
- Create a letters book.

To encourage the exploration of math concepts, teachers:

- Provide games with opportunities to count and compare quantities.
- Encourage children to match patterns of items and create their own patterns.
- Encourage children to talk about the sequence of events.
- Encourage children to create and extend patterns.
- Introduce money.
- Encourage children to name and write numbers 0-10 and become familiar with numbers 11-20.
- Use position terms such as above, below, beside, and between.
- Introduce simple addition and subtraction and different ways of counting (skip counting, etc.).
- Create a numbers book.

To help children explore science concepts, teachers:

- Encourage children to sort objects based on different attributes and explain their reasoning.
- Plan scientific experiments such as:
 - Mixing baking soda and vinegar and having children observe what happens.
 - Experiment with colors so children can examine primary colors and create secondary colors.
 - Predict patterns and make observations about the world around them depending on the theme.
- Provide classroom objects to promote creativity to enhance their play.

Our teachers help children learn how to:

- Identify their emotions and the emotions of others.
- Use words and actions to effectively express how they feel.
- Regulate their emotions with adult support, if needed.
- Maintain friendships.
- Demonstrate coordination and balance in a variety of activities.
- Communicate about foods that will keep them healthy.
- Demonstrate basic safety practices.
- Gain independence with personal care practices with minimal help from adults.