



THE LITTLE ACADEMY

2 year old Curriculum

I. PHONICS & READING

It is important to instill a love of reading at this age. Your child will be offered books and/or read aloud to daily. The feelings of the characters and the plot will be talked about during or after the story. Children will look at the pictures and talk about them. Your child will be encouraged to tell a little bit about the story by studying the pictures. A variety of reading selections will be introduced to the children. A child's attention span, at this age, is very minimal. A long attention span takes time to develop. Many children will wiggle and squirm a lot, this is perfectly normal. Soon your child will settle down and become more attentive. Your child will soon regard reading time as a calm and comforting event.

Many descriptive adjectives, synonyms, and comparatives will be used. This will motivate your child to be more articulate in his/her own speech. Your child will be encouraged to elaborate and clarify things.

II. WRITING & PENMANSHIP

At this age, your child is developing the small muscle coordination required to write. Your child will be shown and encouraged to hold a crayon correctly when coloring.

Your child will be introduced to tracing straight lines with a crayon. Your child's hand will be guided and progress to him tracing completely by himself. This is an important pre-writing skill. It not only addresses the child's technical skill but it also works on his concentration. The most important lesson learned here is for the child to take their time and do their best.

Tracing curved and zigzag lines, with a crayon, is also a concept that will be introduced. This will be done after the mastery of the straight lines. The same technique will be used as explained above.

Proper posture will be demonstrated while drawing and coloring. Good habits need to be learned early on. Proper posture not only looks better, it helps prevent fatigue.

III. ARITHMETIC

Counting will be made into a game, counting anything and everything in sight! The children will be introduced to count out loud to 5 first, then progress to 10. The children will be encouraged to look at the teacher and "copy". Pretty soon, the children will be joining in and counting too.

The children will begin to understand simple comparisons and superlatives.

Children will be introduced to the concept of sorting objects by color and size.

IV. SCIENCE & HEALTH

Most science instruction will be through observation, discussion and hands-on projects. Children will be introduced to various animals and plants. Your child will begin to learn the environments and what is needed to sustain life. Children will be afforded opportunities to examine bugs, flowers, plants, weather, etc.

Children will be introduced the names of outside objects, i.e. sky, trees, grass, sun etc. Children love to spend time outdoors. Children will spend time outdoors, weather permitting. Some of this time will be spent talking about the things that is seen and heard.

Your children will start to understand the basics of good health principles. Much of this will be taught by example. Routines will be established with regard to washing hands before meals and after using the bathroom and eating. Daily exercise will take the form of just running around and playing. The main point is to ensure the children are active and receive some form of daily exercise. This is a good health habit to start early on so that it will become a natural part of their lifestyle.

V. SOCIAL STUDIES

Social studies, at this age, is geared to familiarizing children with immediate surroundings. Your child will learn this through observation and conversation: knows all of the different family members names (Mommy, Daddy, Sister, Brother, Aunt, Uncle etc); knows the names of common conversation; knowing all of the different family members names (Mommy, Daddy, Sister, Brother, Aunt, Uncle etc); knowing the names of common foods; knowing the names of the articles of clothing; and knowing the names of things around their house and school (the different room names, furniture pieces, etc.).

VI. READINESS SKILLS

The children will identify the colors red, blue, green, yellow, purple, pink, orange, brown, black and white. This is learned naturally by just using color words in everyday speech. Even a child that hasn't started talking yet can learn to identify colors this way. Again, this is learned simply by saying the correct color name with the object over time.

Children will learn to identify the following shapes; circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, star, and octagon.

Following simple directions is a part of the regular daily routine. This teaches children to listen carefully and to obey. Beginning with one step commands, then two, then three.

The children will be able to name all the different school supplies and is familiar with their different uses. This is learned easily by the child hearing the teacher use the correct terms for all of the common school supplies and from demonstrating their proper use. Children will be taught the proper way to take care of all things. This is learned by example, and instruction (taking the time to explain to the child how to care for something).

VII. ARTS & CRAFTS

Children will be familiar with and use a variety of art mediums, colors and textures. Arts & Crafts time with two year olds should be a fun time with creative art projects. Children love to get messy! Children will be afforded the opportunity to do many hands-on projects.

VIII. MUSIC

Our goal during the preschool years is to instill a love of music. Children will listen to, sign and learn the words to several fun children's songs. Keeping simple time and rhythm by clapping hands is a good way for children to appreciate the sounds and pitch they are listening to. Your child will have the opportunity to use simple instruments.

IX. PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Coordination and balance (as well as having fun) are key components to mastering gross motor skills. Children love to play outdoors, weather permitting. Children will have the opportunity to enjoy running, jumping, and hopping, etc. When outdoors isn't an option, the teacher will provide opportunities for exercise and the release of energy indoors. Dancing to music is always a good option for indoor play.

X. MANNERS & HELPING

1-2 year-olds have a very short attention span and can get overwhelmed and frustrated easily; therefore, it is best to help them accomplish their tasks rather than to expect them to complete the tasks on their own. Children this age love to help. Children learn a lot from watching others. The teacher will encourage all children to help with picking up toys and putting them away. Children will also learn to say "please", "thank you", "you're welcome" and "excuse me".

XI. PERSONAL CARE

A lot of what the child learns about personal care is learned by observing others. Children will be encouraged to do various tasks with minimal assistance (put on/take off their art shirt, put on/take off their shoes for nap, put on/take off their jackets, etc) Though help is offered, most children find it better if they can learn to do it "all by myself!"

When children are potty training, they will require assistance. We will encourage children to learn how to take care of their own bathroom needs. Though some will master this task very quickly, there are some children that take a little longer to get the hang of it. The teacher understands this and will work diligently with you and your child.

Washing and drying hands with minimal assistance after using the bathroom and before meals is a task that will be worked on. A step-stool is in place by the sink, paper towels and soap in a pump dispenser within grasp. It is very important that children be taught the correct way to wash their hands to minimize the spread of germs.