



## THE LITTLE ACADEMY

### 3 year old Curriculum

#### I. PHONICS & READING

Children will be able recognize the upper and lower case letters as well as knowing the sounds of all the letters. Additionally, the short vowel sounds will be introduced to the children.

It is important to continue 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.

#### II. WRITING & PENMANSHIP

Children are still acquiring their small muscle coordination used in writing. Children will trace letters using a crayon, markers and a large preschool pencil.

#### 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 10 first, then progress to 20 and so on. 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, as well as understanding spatial relationships; on top of, next to, underneath, behind, etc.

#### IV. SCIENCE & HEALTH

Most science instruction should 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 they need 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 seen or 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 meals. Daily exercise will take the form of just running around and playing. The main point is to make sure 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

Children will become familiar with a variety of different occupations. Further, the children will be introduced to the different parts of their community (bank, library, fire station, police station, hospital, etc.) and to different modes of transportation.

## VI. READINESS SKILLS

The children will begin with cutting along a straight line with scissors. They will progress to zigzag and curvy lines.

Children will learn to use a glue stick, crayons, markers and a paintbrush correctly. Further, children will draw a straight line using a straight edge.

Understanding the concepts of same and different along with the concept of comparisons; big, bigger biggest, etc. will be introduced to the children. Simple opposites such as; hot and cold, dry and wet, etc. will be understood by the children. Children will sort objects by color, size, etc.

Children will learn to "color in the lines" reasonably well.

Children will learn their full name. Address and parent information will be introduced to them.

## VII. Art & Crafts

The increased use of different mediums will be integrated into arts and crafts. Art and crafts will be made from ordinary objects; buttons, noodles, etc., as well as crafts made from natural materials like leaves, acorns, sticks, etc.

## VIII. Music

Children will spend time singing simple children's songs and learn many songs by heart. Children will be introduced to and know simple musical contrasts like loud/soft and fast/slow.

## IX. Physical Education

Increased coordination and balance (having fun too!) are key components to mastering gross motor skills. The children will understand the proper use and safety of playground equipment. When going outdoors isn't an option due to weather conditions, the teacher will provide opportunities for exercise and the release of energy indoors—such as by dancing to music and playing simple indoor games (Duck Duck Goose, Simon Says, etc.).

## X. Manners & Helping

Children at this young age have a short attention span and can still get frustrated easily. It is best to continue to help them accomplish their tasks rather than to expect them to complete the tasks on their own. Children, at this age, still 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 be encouraged to say "please", "thank you", "you're welcome" and "excuse me".

## XI. Personal Care

Children learn about personal care 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!"

The task of potty training is mastered, for the most part. Accidents do happen from time to time. The teacher understands this and works 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.