

Pre-Kindergarten Four Year Old Curriculum

In the following you will find the basic course of curriculum for the Pre-kindergarten four year old classes. Due to variances in teacher personalities you will find slight differences in the presentation of the concepts, but the end result is a well-prepared, well-rounded student for kindergarten in the public schools to which Little Hands typically sends students. Please keep in mind that the learning and retention of these concepts is dependent on the developmental clock that each child is uniquely and individually fitted with.

I. Social and Emotional Skills

- a. Separation skills are learned and honed.
- b. Four year olds learn to help others.
- c. Four year olds learn to cooperate in groups.
- d. Four year olds learn to listen and follow directions (listening skills lengthen and deepen as the year progresses. This is a very important kindergarten skill.)
- e. Four year olds learn to clean up their personal area and general classroom space (thus teaching and reinforcing sorting, counting, letter and number recognition and matching skills)
- f. Four year olds begin to learn to work within time constraints.
- g. Four year olds learn to wait their turn.
- h. Four year olds learn to speak clearly, speak in complete sentences and questions, speak so that they may be heard and understood by others as well as establish and maintain eye contact with those whom they are speaking with. One medium for this is Show and Tell.
- i. Four year olds learn about themselves
 - i. They can say their first and last names
 - ii. They can identify major body parts
 - iii. They develop a good self-image
 - iv. They gain confidence in themselves

II. Fine Motor Skills

- a. Four year olds receive instruction and practice in holding scissors correctly and cutting with accuracy.
- b. Four year olds are given instruction and practice in the proper use of crayons and various markers.
- c. Four year olds will learn and are given an opportunity to hold a pencil properly.
- d. Four year olds will be given the opportunity to practice printing their first names.
- e. Activities to strengthen fine motor muscles will include but are not limited to painting in various forms, working puzzles of varying degree of difficulty, gluing, threading beads, building with blocks and playing with play dough.
- f. Four year olds will engage in self-help activities that develop and strengthen fine motor muscles such as manipulating zippers, buttons and snaps.

III. Gross Motor Skills

- a. Four year olds will engage in developmentally appropriate activities that develop and strengthen hand and foot dominance such as hopping, jumping, skipping, throwing and kicking a ball.
- b. Four year olds will engage in activities that develop balance and flexibility such as running, balancing and climbing.
- c. Four year olds will learn to take part in games.

IV. Language Arts Skills

- a. Four year olds will participate in listening to and re-enacting stories. They will be given opportunity to develop comprehension abilities. They will listen to details.
- b. Four year olds will be introduced to children's poetry and simple verse and rhyme.
- c. Four year olds will be able to say the alphabet by rote memory.
- d. Four year olds will be given exposure to the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make.
- e. Four year olds will begin to identify some position words, likeness and differences, as well as opposites.
- f. Four year olds will be able to identify colors and shapes.

V. Math Readiness

- a. Four year olds will rote count.
- b. Four year olds will have exposure through various activities to the numerals 1-20.
- c. Four year olds will identify and write numerals to 12 in preparation for time-telling lessons beginning in kindergarten.
- d. Four year olds will have experience in measurement activities including length and size.
- e. Four year olds will be introduced to time and calendar concepts including days of the week, months of the year, yesterday, today and tomorrow, birthdays and seasons.

VI. Spiritual Development

- a. Four year olds will be given the basic concepts of God's love for us and His son Jesus Christ.
- b. Four year olds will be presented with Bible Stories that will shape their lives.
- c. Through stories and example four year olds will have the opportunity to grow in some of the following character areas: kindness, honesty, making right decisions, putting others first, respect of authority and self-control.

VII. Extra-Curricular Activities

- a. Four year olds will engage in various musical activities including group singing, finger plays and exposure to various types of music and musical instruments.
- b. Four year olds will participate in various art activities exploring different mediums including but not limited to easel painting, finger painting and crafts.
- c. Four year olds will engage in science activities relating to animals, energy, space, water and others.
- d. Four year olds will engage in cooking activities related to themes in their specific classroom.