

# Highlights of the New Discovery Curriculum

## Classroom Learning Centers

Each classroom is arranged for fun and learning in the centers - Art, Blocks, Manipulative Learning Toys, Dramatic Play, Music, Writing, Science, Books and Reading. Centers help children learn about taking turns, making choices and socialization. Creative expression is encouraged by providing art materials for children to explore independently.

Reading, writing and oral language are part of center learning. Teachers monitor centers to maintain small groups, insure proper use of equipment and promote positive behavior. As themes are introduced at Circle Time they are extended into the centers. Organization of the center includes labels on shelves and containers to help children put equipment back at clean up time. Responsibility for cleaning up is another learning activity!

## Lesson Plans

In addition to room arrangement designed for early learning, each teacher creates a unique lesson plan for the class to provide a framework for the day. Flexibility for individual needs is built into each lesson plan. Lesson plans include themes, small and large group activities, free play, and one to one instruction. Socialization is an important aspect of lesson planning.

## Circle Time

Children have circle time daily. Teachers introduce themes at circle time and allow flexibility for the children's input and curiosity. As children mature, circle time is extended for longer periods of time.

## Daily Routines

Teachers create a daily routine for each class, based on the developmental needs of the children. The routine varies with individual teachers and different age groups. A word and picture chart of the routine is prepared for the children and hung in the classroom as a pre-literacy tool. Daily Routines are also posted in the Class Message Center.

## Outdoors

Outdoor play is essential for children's health and well being. The sense of peace and pleasure children experience when they take in fresh air, feel the warmth of the sun on their backs, and watch a butterfly land gently on a flower is immeasurable. What is very evident is how much children enjoy running, jumping, climbing, and playing outdoors. The time children spend outdoors every day is just as important to their learning as the time they spend in the classroom. For our teachers, the outdoors offers many ways to enrich the curriculum and support children's development and learning. Our outdoor "centers" provide opportunities for group interaction in science, art, block building and sand and water play.

## Gym Time

The indoor gym provides space for movement on days of bad weather and is equipped with balls, music, bean bags, hoops and lots more to promote your child's physical development. Our gym teacher, Mr. Barry has been providing fitness and fun for the children since 1999.