



## Little Learners Children's Center

### Curriculum Statement

Little Learners Children's Center does not use a published curriculum but instead bases all lesson planning and assessment on the CT curriculum frameworks for preschool, the Early Learning and Developmental Standards and the preschool assessment frameworks. Little Learners follows a theme-based curriculum where each week classroom teachers focus on that theme to create their learning plans. In addition teachers meet weekly to develop plans that reflect student assessments and observations.

Each week teachers use the current theme to help incorporate reading, writing and math skills as well as some science and social studies concepts into the learning experiences. For example, for reading the class works to develop phonemic awareness with activities like letter of the week and rhyming. Letter of the week activities also include letter recognition and formation. Every day learning plans also include shared reading experiences designed to increase comprehension, knowledge of print, and knowledge of the elements of a story. A variety of independent and assisted activities that include tracing, free writing, journals, and more develop writing skills daily.

To develop math skills, the students learn numbers, counting, patterning, sorting, measurement, two and three dimensional shapes, and beginning addition with whole group, small group, and independent activities each day. Other learning experiences include science activities with animals and plants as well as learning about the scientific process. Technology such as the use of smart phones, tablets, computers and video productions are carefully introduced through specifically designed center activities. This may include taking photos or videos, using tablets for reading, using electronic measuring devices, and/or watching academic videos. Health, wellness and safety are also incorporated weekly and include developmentally appropriate activities, classroom visitors, and opportunities to practice safety processes.

Intentionally planned daily art lessons help develop creativity, build self-esteem, increase spatial awareness and develop fine motor skills. Music and movement is also practiced daily. The schedule of the day and of the year leaves ample time for free-play that helps to develop language and social skills like problem solving, transitions, and imaginative play. Outdoor play is also part of the curriculum and is scheduled daily to help develop gross motor skills.

All teachers use multiple teaching strategies and scaffolding as developmentally appropriate practice. Each classroom's learning activities and plans combine student lead and teacher lead interactions. In addition differential learning techniques are employed daily to ensure that each student's individual needs are being met.

Classroom teachers are trained in the CT Early Learning Developmental Standards and attend other appropriate trainings when possible.