

# The Aemilian Preschool Wee Learners Curriculum

3 year olds

For most children, the preschool experience is a very new and exciting time in their lives. It can be met with apprehension, as well as enthusiasm. Our teachers are sensitive to the needs of children who are starting preschool, in order to make their initial adjustment as smooth as possible. The goal is for children to feel loved, valuable, competent, and to learn to trust others. These goals are accomplished as the children initiate positive interactions with others and feel good about themselves.

Our goal is to provide each child with learning experiences that foster all areas of a child's development. Children learn through play and active exploration of their environment so the curriculum is designed to provide lots of hands-on experiences to enhance their love of learning. Positive social interactions allow three year olds to move from the independent and parallel play of their younger years to more interactive play with peers. Throughout each day, there are numerous opportunities for children to learn to get along with each other, take turns, share, settle disagreements, and work independently. This social development is on-going in the classroom.

Using units based on themes, we plan specifically for the following areas of a child's development:

1. **Language and Literacy Development** emerges as children share thoughts, feelings and perceptions through receptive language, listening skills and expressive language.
  - Uses verbs and adverbs.
  - Asks what, when and why questions.
  - Understands pronouns.
  - Understands "smaller" and "larger".
  - Asks and answers how questions.
  - Uses words to define space (back, up, outside, in front of, over, next to)
  - Recognize and identifies some letters
  - Recognizes own name in print
  - Enjoys books and stories
2. **Cognitive Skills** are introduced through games, books, songs and science and math activities throughout the day. Activities are presented in centers, small group, large group and free choice experiences to introduce and reinforce skills.
  - Listens for 10 – 15 minutes in a group setting.
  - Follows two part directions.
  - Stays on task for 5-10 minutes.
  - Recognizes some basic shapes & colors.
  - Recognizes own name in print.
  - Emerging knowledge of upper case letters.
  - Counts to 10 by rote.
  - Emerging knowledge of numerals, 1-5.

3. **Social and Emotional Development** is an on-going part of life. The goal is for children to feel loved, valuable, competent and to trust others.

- Plays in groups of 2 or 3 children.
- Begins to take turns.
- Shares with friends.
- Enjoys independence by doing things for themselves.
- Uses words to describe personal feelings.

4. **Physical Development** is constantly promoted in the child's surroundings.

**Fine Motor Skills:**

- Cuts on a line with a scissors.
- Imitates drawing a circle, vertical, and horizontal line.
- Pours from a pitcher.
- Uses fingers to pick up small objects.
- Draws a person with three parts.
- Strings beads.
- Uses art tools (brushes, glue, markers, crayons, etc.).

**Gross Motor Skills:**

- Walks up stairs with alternating feet.
- Catches ball with arms extended.
- Throws a ball underhand.
- Rides a tricycle.
- Runs, walks, jumps and gallops to music.
- Hops on one foot.
- Walks on a balance beam.

5. **Creative Expressions** are an integral part of a child's day in preschool. Children learn to use imagination through role playing in an ever changing dramatic play area, blocks, puppets and with other small manipulatives.

**Art:**

- Explores a wide variety of art media.
- Expresses self through artwork.
- Appreciates personal artwork and that of others.

**Music:**

- Sings a variety of songs.
- Experiments with a variety of instruments.
- Improvises with songs and instruments.
- Responds to music through movement.

**Drama:**

- Acts out feelings and emotions.
- Participates in imaginative play alone and with others.