

Cottage Lake Presbyterian Preschool

Continuum of Curriculum for 3s, 4s and PreK Classes

Learning through Play—With a Purpose

In our **3s** class, children are provided with opportunities to **LEARN** new skills while they explore and play! This is the time to learn about friends, communicate needs, build independence, explore new art materials, and develop skills using tools such as scissors and crayons. Emphasis is on process and the experience, rather than the final product! Imaginative play also has a huge role in learning for **3**-year-olds. Playing in the “kitchen,” with little people figures, and with all kinds of animal families are great ways to try out emerging communication and cooperation skills. The classroom is filled with colors, shapes, letters and numbers, which all soak in while the children play with building toys, play dough, books, puzzles, and so much more. Physical abilities also grow, quite literally, by leaps and bounds as **3s** climb, hop, throw, catch, balance, run, and slide. Being **3** is an amazing, exciting explosion of growth in so many ways!

LEARN

PRACTICE

When kids are **4**, they are ready to move, groove, and **PRACTICE** their developing skills. Building on experiences at age 3, the **4**-year-old’s confidence in self-help skills is growing, negotiation techniques are more successful, and awareness of academic concepts comes as each child is developmentally ready. Following multi-part directions allows for more complicated projects. Recognizing letters is the beginning of reading readiness, and 1:1 counting gives numbers meaning. Fine motor skills refine with use of crayons, pencils, scissors, manipulatives, beads...the list goes on! Gross motor skills now include more coordination with increased balance and strength. Circle time has more participation, classroom routines are cemented, and snack time conversations come to life. Many “graduating” **4**-year-olds go off to Kindergarten the next fall, so rest assured that your child will have a multitude of opportunities to practice developing skills, gain academic readiness, understand rules and routines, and be ready for the next big step!

PreKindergarten is the place to **MASTER** developing skills in preparation for Kindergarten! Whether a student is waiting to meet the birthday deadline or would just benefit from another year of practice, our **PreK** class is ideally designed with a smaller class size, allowing for more teacher-student time and instruction. Following directions is learned through working in small groups, and verbal skills reach new heights through interactions with peers. Games, sorting, patterning, and calendar skills all reinforce number and quantity awareness. Cooking and science experiments are great opportunities to learn about cause and effect, observations and predictions, and patterns and cycles. The writing table is always available for budding artists and authors, and each child will have a notebook available to work in all year long. Keeping in mind that play is the best basis for learning for preschoolers, honing skills and connecting them to fun themes makes **PreK** an awesome preparation for “big” school the following year!

MASTER