

Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School

The Four-Year-Old Classes

Daily Activities Plan

9:15 – 9:30 Child drop off

Children gather in coat room, hang up coats and backpacks.

Children are not to be left unattended in the coat room!

Parents should check their mailboxes & outside the classroom door for notices, announcements, etc.

“A” coop parent reports to teacher, checks and empties dehumidifier

“B” coop parent checks the bathrooms for supplies and supervises the coat room

9:30 Class begins

The daily activities are described below. Actual sequence and times are flexible, depending upon attention spans, special events, and other factors affecting classroom dynamics.

Circle Time

Group interaction with the teacher (approximately 15 minutes).

This activity focuses the children on the start of the class day. The teacher leads the class in a discussion of age-appropriate topics, such as the weather outside (sunny, cloudy, rainy, snowy, etc), and introduces the special project/activity/concept for the day.

Circle time is also where the children learn basic classroom skills: sitting in place, speaking in turns, following directions/instructions, focusing attention on the teacher, etc.

Centers Time

There are usually several skills and projects that the children are working on over the course of any given week. In order to facilitate these activities the teacher will arrange the classroom into various Centers. The children will be expected to complete the various activities and projects designed for them in each Center, which is supervised by either the teacher or one of the co-oping parent members. The Centers are frequently set up on the tables in the classroom, but can be located elsewhere in the school depending on the nature of the activity or skills being employed. Some of the projects made by your child will be sent home so the child can show off his/her accomplishments, others will be incorporated into the classroom decorations or posted on the bulletin board in the hallway, demonstrating what we've been working.

Free Choice Time

Free play activity usually follows Centers Time.

Once the child has finished their Centers work s/he can engage in free play with books, toys, puzzles, dress-up and other classroom materials. Free choice allows the child to pursue a personal interest, but frequently requires sharing a toy (taking turns) with other classmates. The child is encouraged to engage in interactive play, where s/he can jointly play together (with blocks, dress-up, play acting, etc) with his/her classmates. Thus, free choice activities develop social skills of cooperative play, negotiated sharing, fairness, etc.

Clean-up Time

In preparation for Snack Time or change of activity.

The children learn to transition from on one activity before beginning another. As the year progresses, they are expected to assist more and more in cleaning up the classroom and putting away toys and other items where they belong.

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Music Time

Thirty minutes, once a week.

In addition to musical activities conducted by the RPCNS teacher, a music teacher conducts a half-hour class once a week to introduce the children to simple instruments, basic music theory, songs, and dance motions.

Snack Time

Generally 10 to 15 minutes.

Although this is nominally a refreshment break, it is another opportunity for social interaction among the children.

Story Time

Generally 5 to 15 minutes.

The teacher reads one or more of stories to the class and leads a discussion about them. Children develop many different skills (aural, auditory, linguistic, visual, cognitive, etc.) while being read to and discussing what has been read.

Outdoor Play

Generally once a day, 15 to 30 minutes.

When weather permits, the children play outdoors on the playground, giving them an opportunity to run, climb, shout, swing, ride tricycles and otherwise burn off energy! During inclement weather (rainy days, or outdoor temperatures below freezing), an indoor space is used instead of the playground for the same purpose.

12:00 Dismissal

The teacher dismisses each child from the classroom only to his/her parent. Please notify the teacher (preferably in writing) if your child will be going home with a classmate, or if someone other than the child's parent will be picking up the child.

If your child's class is coming in from outside, the teacher will bring them back to the classroom for dismissal after they wash their hands. This helps to keep control of the group, and ensures that projects are picked up, and special announcements or reminders can be made.

Dismissal time is a particularly busy transition period, requiring the full attention of the teacher. Once the teacher dismisses a child to his/her parent, the parent assumes full responsibility (even if the child re-enters the classroom).

Parents should once again check their mailboxes and classroom door for notices, announcements, etc, as well as their child's coat hook.