

Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School

The Three-Year-Old Classes Daily Activities Plan

9:30 – 9:45 **Child drop off**

- Children gather on the playground, hang up coats and backpacks in coat room.
- Children are not to be left unattended on the playground
- Parents should sign their child in, complete the health screening and temperature checks, check their mailboxes & classroom door for notices, announcements, etc.
- Co-ops report to their teacher to help set-up classroom, check bathrooms for soap & paper supplies

9:45 – 12:30 **Class Day**

The daily activities are described below. Actual sequence and times are flexible, determined by your child's classroom teacher who has taken into account the children's attention spans, energy levels, special events, and other factors which may be affecting classroom dynamics.

Outdoor Play

Every day, weather permitting, for the first part of the school day.

The children play are taken outdoors on our playground, giving them an opportunity to run, climb, shout, swing, ride tricycles and otherwise burn off energy! During inclement weather, an indoor space is used instead of the playground for the same purpose.

Circle Time

This activity is teacher lead, facilitating group interaction (generally 5 to 15 minutes).

This activity focuses the children's attention on the topic at hand as well as providing a structure within which certain daily tasks are performed, such as attendance, calendar, etc. 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 one of the activities in which children learn basic classroom skills: sitting in place, speaking in turns, focusing attention on the teacher, etc.

Project Time

Directed project activity (generally 10-15 minutes, may be concurrent with Free Choice Time).

The children individually work on the day's project, assisted by the teacher and/or a co-oping parent as necessary. The projects are usually arts and crafts, and may cover concepts such as counting, shapes, colors, etc., be related to the season or a holiday (autumn, Thanksgiving, winter, etc.), or science-oriented. Projects usually employ fine motor skills, and introduce the child to various creative media (crayons, markers, paints, glue and glitter) which, in turn, can be used for self-expression and imaginative illustrations. Some projects are brought home so the child can show off his/her accomplishments, others may be incorporated into the classroom decorations or posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Free Choice Time

It's during this part of the school day that the child can play with books, toys, puzzles, and other classroom materials of his/her choice, pursuing a personal interest. It's common during this play period that a child will have the opportunity to further develop his/her self-regulatory skills because he/she will need to share a toy (taking turns) with other classmates. The child will also have the opportunity to engage in interactive play, with blocks, vehicles, dress-ups, doll house,

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etc.). Play is vitally important for children, giving them an opportunity to develop the social-emotional skills of cooperative interactions.

Clean-up Time

This activity usually takes place at the conclusion of Free Choice Time, in preparation for a transition from activity to another (such as from Free Choice Time to Story Time or Snack). It's during this time of transition when children practice coming to closure on one activity before beginning another. As the year progresses, the children should actually be able to assist more and more in cleaning up the classroom and putting away toys and other items where they belong.

Snack Time

Generally lasts 10 to 15 minutes.

Although this is nominally a refreshment break (each child brings in their own snack), it is another opportunity for social interaction among the children, and between the children and the co-oping adults and teacher.

Story Time

Generally lasts 5 to 10 minutes.

During Story Time, the teacher will read one or more age-appropriate books to her class and follow-up with questions about what was just read. It's while listening to a book being read that a child has the opportunity to develop so many different skills (aural, auditory, linguistic, visual, cognitive, concepts of print, etc.).

Music Time

This enrichment class is taught by formally trained Music teacher for thirty minutes, once a week. During Music the children not only sing a variety of songs, but they frequently learn hand and/or body motions to accompany those songs, as well as being introduced to basic rhythm instruments, initial music theory, and dance motions. Music fosters connections between language development, math and coordinated body movements.

12:30 Dismissal

The teacher dismisses each child to the child's parent. The parent needs to sign their child out. Please notify the teacher (both orally and 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.

Before the start of the school year, each teacher will notify the parents of her students from where she will dismiss her class (from the classroom or playground). If your child is staying for an Extended Day Program or Stay & Play AfterCare, then the teacher will make sure that your child will get to the program with his/her lunch and hands washed.

Once the teacher dismisses a child to his/her parent, the parent assumes full responsibility for his/her child (even if the child re-enters the classroom).

It's at this time that parents should once again check their mailboxes and classroom door for notices, announcements, etc, as well as their child's coat hook.