

# CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH PLAY

"Play is the child's work", Marie Montessori once said. In play, children learn through engaging in real actions involving tangible objects. During this kind of play, children increase their skills, creativity and understanding. Research shows young children learn by doing.

Young children do not learn the same way as older children and adults. They learn best through direct encounters with their world using all five senses rather than through formal education. Educational programs designed for school-age children are inappropriate for the preschool classroom. In a preschool classroom you will find children actively responding to an environment which is carefully planned by the teachers. You will see role-playing life situations, intricate block structures, opportunities for creative expression, sorting, classifying, counting, smelling, tasting and touching. Children may be noisy and active but learning is taking place.

Faith development is the core of the curriculum. All activities add in some way to the spiritual life of young children. Children do not understand the abstract so we as teachers need to make faith real and alive for young children. The teacher will, in daily activities and relationships, show the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

Through these activities and relationships young children can:

- see themselves as God's children
- enjoy worship activities
- feel secure in God's love
- see their world as God's creation and grow in a desire to care for it
- respond to God's love by caring for others

Curriculum plans are based on the children's interests and become emergent. Each month the teachers will put together a developmentally appropriate curriculum for all age groups. Activities will include: spiritual growth and worship, outdoor exploration, sensory, manipulative, dramatic play, music and movement, group-time, block building, art, climbing, running, gardening, caring for animals, book time and cooking. Each activity will be open to each child for an extended period of time allowing the child to share the experience for as little or as long as they like.

Developmental profiles will be done twice a year and will be discussed with the parent and teacher.

"This is a child's place and we move at a child's pace"

Village Preschool is a place where we discover who we are and discover the world around us. It is a place where all children will feel welcomed and loved. Our days are based on the child's needs and interests. It is a place where children play to learn. Village Preschools program is a place where children know that Jesus loves them.