



SAINT MARK'S PRESCHOOL
★★★
TWO-YEAR OLDS - RED ROOM
CURRICULUM
2017 - 2018

Welcome to the Red Room! We understand that our room is likely your child's first school experience and it may be an anxious time for both child and parents, sometimes more so for the parents than the child. We have the privilege to work with both your child and you to make this as smooth a transition as possible for all involved. One thing we stress and need your help with is communication. Please share with us any information you feel is important and that your child's teachers need to know. Good communication will create a happy and successful first school experience for your child.

Our weekly lesson plans are always available to families on our website, and are also posted in the classroom near the parent sign-in. Below is a brief overview of the areas addressed by our weekly lesson plans:

LITERACY: We read lots of books during circle time and throughout the day in a more informal manner. We read books that capture a child's attention. From books about animals, transportation, feelings, and families, to books about the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. Two-year olds love to repeat things, so we may read the same book a few times throughout the week. Some favorites in our room include nursery rhymes, Eric Carle books, Dr. Seuss books, Pete the Cat and No David! We make story time fun by reading with enthusiasm, and making the experience interactive by asking questions about what children see on the page, or asking how the characters feel.

TABLE ACTIVITIES: Table activities focus on play and children learning through this play. Play helps our young children to develop and improve their motor skills, coordination, and concentration. We set up activities that can be worked on as a group and also individually. We use different activities (play dough, puzzles, blocks, shaving cream, tearing paper, etc.), to allow them to use their senses to discover and explore their environment, develop imagination, creative thinking, and ability to problem solve and experiment with solutions.

CREATIVE ART: The artwork that we do focuses on sensory applications using different types of materials from our art supplies (paint, glue, crayons, markers, etc.) and organic materials (rice, pasta, sticks, etc.). Children use their senses to explore colors and textures. Creative art also helps strengthen small motor skills and build self esteem with the enjoyment of being creative. The focus is always on the process and not the product.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: Music and movement is a large part of our day. It is a way of teaching the whole child (mental, emotional, social, and physical). It helps with developing and improving coordination and balance through songs and finger plays, vocabulary advances and it helps language comprehension. Children learn acceptable outlets to express feeling and emotions. Songs and dancing are not only essential to overall development, but also make learning fun!

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Relationships develop through all kinds of interactions. Respect is the foundation of our room. We talk about respecting friends, families, teachers, as well as themselves (for example keeping their bodies safe). We model the behavior we teach by respecting each child as an unique individual. We encourage independence by teaching basic self-help skills (washing hands, cleaning up after themselves). We also talk about sharing, taking turns and manners. We recognize problems as learning opportunities and let children try to solve their own issues. We step in only when necessary. Children will also learn classroom routines and how to follow directions.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT: Children are unique and so are their ways of communication. We understand that some children may have minimal or non-existent verbal language skills when starting in our room. It is our job to learn each child's unique ways of communicating through their words, cries, gestures, etc. We encourage children to use their words when trying to express their needs and wants. Language development activities will be intentional, including circle time whole group activities, one-one interactions during table activities and free play.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT: Spiritual development is a gentle introduction to prayer through a sung grace before snack and lunch, celebrating Christmas and Easter in an age appropriate way and a fundamental respect for each child as an unique individual.

TOILET LEARNING: Toilet learning starts with readiness signs (dry diaper for long periods of time or overnight, recognition of feelings that signal the need to use the restroom, ability to pull down and pull up pants independently, showing an interest in using the potty or other people's toilet habits, seeking privacy when going in the diaper, etc.) There should not be any pressure but rather we allow the child to become aware of their bodily functions. It is important to know that every child is different and toilet ready at different ages. We have a separate sheet available with more detailed information about this process.

MONTHLY THEMES: Each month, we focus on three themes which will be incorporated into all parts of the curriculum: a social theme, an emergent theme and a cultural theme. Our social theme allows focus on one aspect of our students developing social skills. Our emergent theme is decided by our students' interest based on careful observation by our teachers. Our cultural theme allows focus on a specific country or culture, instilling love and respect for our diverse friends and neighbors, both near and far. We appreciate when our parents share age appropriate activities or materials (books, photos, music, food, clothing, etc.) related to our monthly cultural theme. Please speak with your child's teacher about what/how you would like to contribute.

MONTH	SOCIAL THEME	CULTURAL THEME
SEPTEMBER	Getting to Know You	Japan
OCTOBER	Toilet Learning and Bathroom Etiquette	Brazil
NOVEMBER	Being Thankful	India
DECEMBER	Manners	Christmas
JANUARY	Family	Philippines
FEBRUARY	Friendship	China
MARCH	Feelings/Emotions	Kenya
APRIL	Earth Awareness	Korea
MAY	Community Helpers	Mexico