

## MISSION

Early Childhood Education Programs in the Diocese of Joliet operate in collaboration with parents, parishes, and schools to provide unique, Christ-centered learning environments for young children in an interactive and supportive atmosphere where a growing awareness of God, self, and the world can be nurtured and fostered.



*Pray*

*Learn*

*Grow*

## PHILOSOPHY

Parents, as primary educators, form the basis of a child's earliest experiences of love, community, and faith. In partnership with parents, the early childhood education program builds upon this foundation and provides developmentally appropriate experiences designed to meet the physical, psychological, emotional, social, spiritual, and cognitive needs of the young child. The dignity of the individual child is recognized in this Christ-centered environment. Through a wide variety of direct sensory encounters with the world, as well as through teacher directed and student engaged learning, a balanced pattern of development is established as the young child grows in awareness of self, others, the world, and God.

## TECHNOLOGY

Children have opportunities to:

- Use applications.
- Learn basic technology skills.
- Use technology safely.



### **FAMILIES CAN SUPPORT THE CURRICULUM BY:**

- Modeling active participation in weekend Mass, daily prayer, and service.
- Showing an interest in schoolwork and school activities.
- Encouraging good nutrition, rest, and exercise.
- Maintaining positive/supportive communication with the school.

This curriculum guide provides a glimpse of goals and activities.

For more comprehensive information, please contact your child's teacher or the school principal.

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## DIOCESE OF JOLIET

CURRICULUM GUIDE

**PRESCHOOL**

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***PREPARING  
FUTURE  
READY  
LEADERS***



**WE TEACH MORE.**

**DIOCESE OF JOLIET**



## **RELIGION**

Children learn through stories, activities, Scripture, prayer, and discussion about the Catholic faith.

Children learn that they are loved by God. As Catholics, they are called to love one another. As a family, we gather as a Catholic faith community on weekends to give praise and worship to God by attending Mass.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Children learn to feel comfortable in the school environment and with peers. The focus is:

- To encourage social and emotional growth.
- To foster independence and self-confidence.
- To guide the development of appropriate social behavior.
- To encourage cooperation within a group.
- To recognize feelings and manage them appropriately.

## **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Children become confident learners. The focus is:

- To develop an awareness of the wonder of learning and the wonders of God's creation.
- To nurture creativity and self-expression.
- To develop the potential for understanding and critical thinking.
- To provide opportunities to learn through discovery and exploration.
- To provide experiences which develop a child's attention span.

## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Children become aware of their physical wellness, enjoy physical activities, and take pride in their body as God's creation. The focus is:

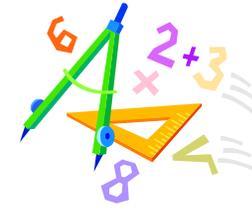
- To develop gross motor skills.
- To develop fine motor skills.
- To improve coordination.
- To encourage healthy life choices.



## **LANGUAGE/EARLY LITERACY**

Children grow in their capacity to read, write, and communicate effectively. The focus is:

- To express themselves using increasingly complex language.
- To ask and answer questions appropriately.
- To develop phonological awareness.
- To demonstrate understanding of print concepts.
- To demonstrate developmentally appropriate emergent reading/ writing skills.
- To enjoy and appreciate literature and informational text.



## **MATHEMATICS**

Children learn quantitative reasoning and problem solving skills through the use of hands-on experiences and technology. The focus is:

- To compare and contrast items by characteristics.
- To follow directions in sequence.
- To recognize and extend patterns.
- To show an awareness of time and sequence.
- To explore number concepts and solve simple problems.

## **SCIENCE**

Children learn through a science program that is discovery based, providing hands-on activities that stem from the child's natural curiosity.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Children develop a sense of citizenship and social responsibilities as Catholics in their communities and the world.



## **ART & MUSIC**

Children learn through authentic art and music experiences, allowing for creativity and freedom of expression.