



Early Learners

Prekindergarten - Kindergarten

Igniting a Sense of Wonder and Awe

The Early Learners program is designed to develop a sense of wonder and curiosity and to train children in good habits, all while laying the foundation for reading, writing, mathematics, and science.

BIBLE

Christian education trains the whole person to become fully mature in spirit, soul, mind, and body. Providence integrates the truth of God's word throughout the curriculum. A daily reading of Bible stories from a children's Bible story-book teaches children to see Christ in all things.

- Understand that God gave us the Bible as His only written word
- Listen to selected daily Bible stories read from a children's Bible storybook
- Narrate and discuss selected Bible stories
- Identify the two parts of the Bible—Old and New Testaments
- Describe the major biblical events and people discussed in class
- Participate in morning prayer
- Understand the basic gospel message, what sin is, what obedience is, God's love and forgiveness through Christ's death on the cross, God's creative and sustaining power, and God's holiness and unchanging character
- Learn and sing a new hymn each month

LANGUAGE ARTS

- **Listening/Speaking**
 - Narrate books read aloud in class
 - Participate in classroom discussions
 - Tell a story to accompany a picture
 - Listen as teacher models correct grammar, complete sentences, and formal vs. informal speech
 - Demonstrate comprehension of orally presented material
 - Demonstrate ability to follow oral instructions
- **Phonemic Awareness**
 - Match beginning, middle, and ending sounds
 - Use concrete objects to illustrate manipulation of sounds within words

- Manipulate sounds by replacing the beginning, middle, and ending sounds to make new words
- Identify syllables in spoken words
- Identify rhyming words
- Discriminate between rhyming and non-rhyming words
- **Phonics**
 - Practice sounds of seventy-two phonograms
 - Master sounds of first twenty-six phonograms
 - Practice decoding words as developmentally appropriate
 - Orally identify antonyms, compound words, and root words
- **Print Awareness**
 - Recognize and name letters of the alphabet
 - Distinguish letters from words
 - Predict events
 - Read a breadth of topics
 - Demonstrate understanding of directionality
 - Identify parts of a book—cover, spine, author, illustrator, and title page
- **Comprehension**
 - Sequence events of simple stories or passages
 - Use reading comprehension strategies
 - Ask questions about books read in class
 - Encourage and practice oral narration of books read in class by teacher
 - Answer questions requiring recall of facts; description of characters and setting; beginning, middle, and end of a passage; and pertinent events
- **Literature**
 - Listen to excellent literature read aloud by teacher
 - Listen to books that reinforce strong moral character, present a biblical perspective, enhance imagination, and have rich vocabulary and complex sentence structure
 - Memorize and recite hymns, songs, poetry, and scripture
 - Provide parents with a list of books to read at home
- **Language Conventions**
 - Recognize capitalization of the first word in a sentence
 - Recognize punctuation at the end of a sentence
- **Handwriting and Spelling**
 - Experience pre-writing activities to strengthen fine-motor skills
 - Model proper writing posture
 - Write from left to right with spaces between words
 - Model proper tripod grasp
 - Demonstrate proper formation of lower-case manuscript letters and numbers
 - Write name
 - Encourage consistent neatness standards
 - Listen to and follow oral directions in forming letters
 - Manipulate letter-sounds (phonograms) to form one-syllable words as dictated by teacher

- **Patterning**
 - Experience replicating visual, auditory, and kinesthetic patterns
 - Use manipulatives to count, sort, compare, and make designs and patterns
 - Identify repeating and continuing patterns
 - Compare and order objects by size
 - Identify and sort objects by attributes
 - Identify, copy, describe, and extend simple and complex patterns using concrete objects, sounds, actions, and pictures
- **Number Sense**
 - Recognize numbers one to 100
 - Understand one-to-one-correspondence
 - Count forward and backward to 100 by ones, twos, fives, and tens
 - Read whole numbers to 100
 - Write two-digit numbers
 - Count and group numbers by tens and ones
 - Identify numbers before and after a given number on a hundred chart
 - Compare sets with more, fewer, and the same
 - Compare greater and less than
 - Identify ordered positions
 - Name and identify ordinal numbers
 - Identify whole numbers and fractions of $\frac{1}{2}$
 - Answer questions, make observations, and draw conclusions about graphs
 - Identify steps in problem solving— observation, sorting, patterning, sequencing, and graphing
- **Computation**
 - Add and subtract using concrete objects and number sentences
 - Understand the meaning of the plus, minus and equal signs
 - Introduce addition and subtraction facts
- **Money**
 - Identify coins—penny, nickel, and dime
 - Understand the cent sign
 - Add pennies, nickels, and dimes
- **Measurement**
 - Compare lengths—longer/shorter
 - Compare mass—heavier/lighter
 - Compare capacity—holds more/less
 - Determine area—cover space with cubes
 - Tell time with analog and digital clocks to hour and half-hour
 - Identify months of the year, days of the week, and seasons
 - Estimate

- **Geometry**
 - Identify geometric shapes—square, circle, rectangle, triangle, rhombus, parallelogram, hexagon, and octagon
 - Identify line of symmetry and symmetrical designs
 - Make or copy shapes and designs on a geoboard
 - Practice spatial perception using pattern blocks, geoboards, and tangrams

ART

- **Artists and Works Include:**
 - Albrecht Durer, *Praying Hands*
 - Winslow Homer, *The Fog Warning and Breezing Up*
 - Vincent Van Gogh, *Sunflowers*
 - Works in the Reves collection at the Dallas Museum of Arts
- Improve fine-motor skills
- Use imagination and independent thinking
- Explore a variety of media including crayon resist, oil pastels, watercolors, payons, markers, ink, colored pencils, tempera paint, play dough, and clay
- Make projects that incorporate printmaking, painting, sculpture, and drawing techniques
- Understand various art elements and terms such as: line, texture, symmetry, foreground, background, seascapes, landscapes, and still life
- Differentiate between a landscape and a seascape
- Study parts of a fish and other sea creatures
- Learn how a printing press works
- Learn how God created our hands and how they work
- Discuss how God made flowers
- Learn about the Reves collection at the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA)
- Study slides of the paintings and fine art objects
- Take a field trip to the DMA to view and identify thirteen works of art, such as *The Duck Pond* by Renoir and *Sheaves of Wheat* by Van Gogh

MUSIC

- **From the Musikgarten curriculum: Music Makers at Home**
 - Echo rhythm and tonal patterns
 - Learn the hymn-of-the-month
 - Play simple classroom rythmn instructions
 - Sing individually to work on matching pitch
 - Read simple rythm patterns as a group and individually
 - Listen to and study fook, brass, percussion, woodwind, and string instruments

- Tap, clap, and learn to move to the beat
- Play singing games that emphasize moving to the beat, singing on pitch, and learning music notation

HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY

- Discuss meaning of flag and learn the pledge of allegiance
- Discuss Christopher Columbus
- Discuss the Pilgrims, the Mayflower, and the First Thanksgiving
- Understand purpose of maps and globe
- Identify Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic oceans
- Identify Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico on a U.S. map
- Identify seven continents
- Identify directions
- Identify our continent, country, state, and city

NATURE STUDIES

Providence teaches that nature is to be studied in a relational sense that does not detach the children from the creation as mere objective observers, but instead brings them into a closer and more intimate understanding of the creation. This understanding enables them to fulfill their covenant obligations to nurture and care for the earth, the plants, and creatures that God created. The children learn that God made everything for a purpose. Whenever possible, the children study an organism in its environment. They observe the effects and interaction between an organism and its environment. The study of nature is an aesthetic experience as well as a discipline. It is an opening of the eyes to the individuality, the ingenuity, and the personality of each of the life forms around us. Nature study is not merely a study of life, but an experience of life.

- Understand that God created all things for a purpose
- Read, discuss, and narrate a variety of books about nature
- Introduce and study American farm life
- Introduce and study pond, ocean, and desert habitats
- Compare likenesses and differences of habitats
- Study plants and animals of each habitat
- Develop knowledge and vocabulary related to habitats
- Identify living and non-living things
- Tend to six raised garden beds
- Observe a variety of live animals

- Observe live specimens and demonstrations by experts
- Observe a variety of animals in the early learners hallway
- Incubate eggs and observe hatching; care for chicks
- Conduct simple experiments
- Discuss water cycle, life cycle, and food chain and their impact on the habitat
- Discuss weather and seasons
- Observe life cycle of the butterfly—find eggs and caterpillars in our garden, raise them to adults inside, and release them

PLAYTIME

- Children have daily playtime in the Learning Garden or the Memory Garden

CHARACTER TRAINING

One of the major focuses in the Early Learner classes is the training of children in Christ-like habits and character. Having families who are like-minded and who model Christ-like behavior makes the early learners program and the home a strong team. Experience has shown us that children who are trained in good habits, who are emotionally secure, and who are obedient to authority are confident children who are prepared to succeed in school and life. We desire to train children to show respect by putting others first.

- Good habits that result in good character include:
 - Honor
 - Attentiveness
 - Honesty
 - Obedience
 - Responsibility
 - Faithfulness
 - Patience
 - Kindness
 - Self-control
 - Orderliness
 - Forgiveness

Note: Prekindergarten children are assessed in the fall for entrance into Kindergarten.