

Core Knowledge Preschool



An Explanation of Grace Lutheran's Core Knowledge Curriculum

www.coreknowledge.org
www.gracelutheranschool.com

The Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence is a set of model guidelines describing fundamental competencies and specific knowledge that, for children from three to five years of age, can provide a solid, coherent foundation for later learning in kindergarten and beyond.

“Children who attend well-planned high-quality early childhood programs in which curriculum aims are specified and integrated across domains tend to learn more and are better prepared to master the complex demands of formal schooling.” --from *Eager to Learn* (2001), National Research Council, Washington, D.C.



Grace Lutheran School takes Core Knowledge a step further and integrates our faith in Jesus into every area. We create an atmosphere of loving acceptance and provide opportunities for children to learn and grow spiritually as well as physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and cognitively.

The Preschool Sequence is intended to guide the planning of experiences and activities for preschool children by offering a coherent progression of skills and knowledge in the following areas:

Faith Development

- ◆ Bible as God's Word
- ◆ Jesus' love
- ◆ Bible Stories
- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Forgiveness
- ◆ Prayer

Physical Well-Being and Motor Development

Movement and Coordination

- ◆ Physical Attention and Relaxation
- ◆ Gross Motor Skills
- ◆ Eye-Hand and Eye-Foot Coordination
- ◆ Group Games
- ◆ Creative Movement and Expression

Social and Emotional Development

Autonomy and Social Skills

- ◆ Sense of Self and Personal Responsibility
- ◆ Working in a Group Setting
- ◆ Recognize Uniqueness as God's Child

Approaches to Learning

Work Habits

- ◆ Memory Skills
- ◆ Following Directions
- ◆ Task Persistence and Completion

Language

- ◆ Oral language
- ◆ Nursery Rhymes, Poems, Fingerplays, and Songs
- ◆ Storybook Reading and Storytelling
- ◆ Emerging Literacy Skills

Knowledge Acquisition and Cognitive Development

Mathematical Reasoning

- ◆ Patterns
- ◆ Classification
- ◆ Geometry
- ◆ Measurement
- ◆ Numbers and Number Sense
- ◆ Addition and Subtraction with Concrete Objects
- ◆ Money

Orientation in Time and Space

- ◆ Vocabulary
- ◆ Measures of Time
- ◆ Passage of Time
- ◆ Actual and Represented Space
- ◆ Simple Maps
- ◆ Basic Geographical Concepts

Scientific Reasoning and the Physical World

- ◆ Human Characteristics
- ◆ Animal Characteristics
- ◆ Plant Characteristics
- ◆ Physical Elements (Water, Air, Light)
- ◆ Tools
- ◆ God, as Creator of our World

Music

- ◆ Attention to Differences in Sound
- ◆ Imitate and Produce Sounds
- ◆ Listen and Sing
- ◆ Listen and Move

Visual Arts

- ◆ Attention to Visual Detail
- ◆ Creating Art
- ◆ Looking At and Talking About Art

Sample Junior Preschool Activities

Faith Development

- ◆ Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus
- ◆ Bible Stories: Baby Moses
- ◆ Show Jesus' love with playmates

Movement

Game: The Farmer in the Dell

Autonomy/Social Skills

Follow rules for simple childhood game

Work Habits

Choose and use a toy independently

Oral Language

Give simple single step directions

Nursery Rhymes, Poems, Fingerplays, Songs

- ◆ *This Little Piggy Went to Market*
- ◆ *Eensy, Weensy Spider*
- ◆ *Jesus Loves Me*

Storybook Reading & Storytelling

Retell a story that has been read aloud

Stories: *The Little Red Hen, The Three*

Little

Pigs, Harold and the Purple Crayon

Emerging Literacy Skills

Writing strokes: circle

Mathematical Reasoning

- ◆ Count groups of objects to 5
- ◆ Given an oral number, create groups with the given number, to 5

Orientation in Time & Space

- ◆ Name the current day of the week
- ◆ Indicate one's position on a simple room map

Scientific Reasoning

Describe objects using sense of smell

Music

Accompany a story or musical piece with previously taught sound effects

Visual Arts

Cutting

Sample Senior Preschool Activities

Faith Development

- ◆ Pray for one another
- ◆ Bible Stories: Jesus is Born
- ◆ Help care for God's creation

Movement

Keep going on swing by pumping legs

Game: Relay Races

Autonomy/Social Skills

Attempt to solve conflicts using words

Work Habits

Organize and plan what is needed to carry out a project or task

Oral Language

Express a personal opinion

Nursery Rhymes, Poems, Fingerplays & Songs

- ◆ *I Know an Old Lady*
- ◆ *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*

Storybook Reading & Storytelling

Demonstrate book and print awareness
Stories: *Tikki Tikki Tembo, The Shoemaker and the Elves, Caps for Sale*

Emerging Literacy Skills

- ◆ Write one's first name
- ◆ Give the beginning sound of a word

Mathematical Reasoning

- ◆ Identify and count pennies to 10
- ◆ Organize & read data in bar graphs

Orientation in Time & Space

Color squares in a blank grid to reproduce designs on other grids

Scientific Reasoning

Observe, describe, and record some basic properties of light

Music

Maintain the beat of a chant, song

Visual Arts

Painting