

Preschool Curriculum and Goals



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The preschool learning environment is primarily based on the *God, Creation and Me Curriculum* for young children, developed by the North American Division Curriculum Committee, Office of Education, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The curriculum is based on the biblical story of the creation of this world and is an attempt to fill a need in the Seventh-day Adventist Educational System for a nature and Bible-based curriculum for preschool children. The preschool program also incorporates elements from the *Abeka* curriculum and *The Whole Child*. At the core of the curriculum for preschool are well planned learning centers that allow for child choice and self-directed play, small groups and supportive teaching that prepares children for academic excellence. The development of language, mathematical reasoning and scientific thought is emphasized throughout all the centers. Changes to the learning environment, activities and projects reflect emerging interests and individual goals. Learning centers offer guided experiences that encompass all the skills and understandings necessary for optimum development and success in school.

Typical centers include:

- ✓ Language / Writing
- ✓ Construction / Blocks
- ✓ Dramatic Play
- ✓ Art / Creative Expression
- ✓ Sensory: Sand and Water
- ✓ Technology / Computers
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Outdoor Learning
- ✓ Music and Movement
- ✓ Math / Manipulatives

Throughout the day, children make self-directed and guided choices, participate in small groups and projects, join in circle times with the whole group and reflect upon and document their learning experiences. Children are guided to critical learning experiences that form the building blocks of healthy development. Using the *God, Creation and Me Curriculum* and knowledge of the children and families as a framework, teachers use their talent and expertise to design, adapt and invent learning centers that best serve the children in the room.

The program is designed for each child to learn all the necessary skills and understandings to succeed in Kindergarten and continue to thrive academically, spiritually and socially.