



Our Preschool Program, Curriculum, Philosophy and Goals

At Lafayette Recreation Center Preschool Program we have chosen to follow the Creative Curriculum approach to Early Childhood Education. We believe the curriculum encompasses our mission and philosophy the best way and holds fast to our motto “Learning through Play”.

The Creative Curriculum is based on the past 75 years of childhood and learning studies. It employs research-based developmentally appropriate practice, which, according to the National Association for the Education of Young Children ([NAEYC](#)) “provides children with opportunities to learn and practice newly acquired skills. It offers challenges just beyond the level of their present mastery and it takes place in the context of a community where children are safe and valued, where their physical needs are met, and where they feel psychologically secure.” (Bredekamp & Copple 1997, pp. 14-15, [The Creative Curriculum for Preschool](#) 2002, p. 1)

Philosophy

The philosophy behind our curriculum is that young children learn best by doing. Learning isn't just repeating what someone else says; it requires active thinking and experimenting to find out how things work and to learn firsthand about the world we live in.

Play provides the foundation for academic learning. It is the preparation children need as they learn mathematical, scientific, and literacy skills. Play enables us to achieve the key goals of our early childhood curriculum.



The Goals of our Curriculum

For young children, meaningful and long-lasting learning requires active thinking and experimenting to find out how things work. This is best accomplished through purposeful play facilitated by highly intentional teaching practices.

The most important goal of our early childhood curriculum is to help children become enthusiastic learners. This means encouraging children to be active and creative explorers who are not afraid to try out their ideas and to think their own thoughts. Our goal is to help children become independent, self-confident, inquisitive learners. We're teaching them how to learn, not just in preschool, but also all through their lives. We're allowing them to learn at their own pace and in the ways that are best for them. We're giving them good habits and attitudes, particularly a positive sense of themselves, which will make a difference throughout their lives. The areas of development are:

Social: To help children feel comfortable in school, trust their new environment, make friends, and feel they are a part of the group.

Emotional: To help children experience pride and self-confidence, develop independence and self-control, and have a positive attitude toward life.

Cognitive: To help children become confident learners by letting them try out their own ideas and experience success, and by helping them acquire learning skills such as the ability to solve problems, ask questions, and use words to describe their ideas, observations, and feelings.

Physical: To help children increase their large and small muscle skills and feel confident about what their bodies can do.

The activities we plan for children, the way we organize the environment, select toys and materials, plan the daily schedule, and talk with children, are all designed to accomplish the goals of our curriculum and give the children a successful start in school.