

District 20 Pre-K Centers

Unit of Study

Welcome to Pre-K

Essential Question:

What is Pre-K?

Focus Questions:

- What will I learn and do in pre-K?
- What do I bring to my classroom community?
- Who are the people in my classroom community?
- Who else is in my pre-K program?

Student Outcomes

- My classroom and program are safe places where I learn, play and have fun.
- I am an important member of my classroom community; my thoughts, needs, ideas and abilities matter.
- My family, my teachers*, and other children make up my classroom community; their backgrounds, thoughts, needs, ideas and abilities matter.
- The teachers and other adults at my program keep me safe, care about me and support my learning.
- In my classroom I use materials carefully and make choices about where I work and play.
- Classroom rules and routines help me learn and stay safe.

Literacy Activities

- Encourage children to explore writing tools at home.
- Write your child's name on cards or paper. Have your child practice writing the first letter of their name.
- Using family pictures, children can create their families out of Popsicle sticks. Talk with the children about the people in their pictures

Art Activities

- Invite children to draw self-portraits. Provide mirrors and encourage them to look at their faces carefully in the mirror then draw what they see.
- Put up some pictures of people in the family. Children could create pictures of their families and put them in frames.

Science Activities

- Add mirrors for children to explore and discuss what they see. Ask children how they think a mirror works.
- Collect small items such as acorns, leaves, buttons, etc. Invite children to add to the collections. Ask why they want to add these items; how do they fit in with the other items to create a collection?

Music/Movement Activities

- Provide an assortment of instruments. They can be "homemade" instruments like pots and pans, buckets, cups, etc. Invite children to try them on their own. Ask children which instrument they liked best.

Math Activities

- Cut apart a picture of your child and family members, thus creating a puzzle(s). Invite your child to assemble their own puzzles and their family's puzzles as well.
- Counting Jar - Put a small number of large objects in a jar (up to 10). Encourage children to spill some or all and count.

Cooking Activities

- Throughout the year, every time you cook together with your child, (either food or non-food items like playdough and goop) write the recipe in child friendly format with step-by-step directions and pictures. You can also save the recipes in a separate place and create a home cookbook.

Vocabulary:

angry centers classmates classroom community disappointed embarrassed emotions
expressions excited feelings friends frustrated helpful library lonely manipulatives
materials movement peers proud rules scared schedule science sharing silly
taking turns teachers welcome