

Sample Lessons in Pre-K

Birds of a Feather

Circle Time Ideas

Birds are a fun theme to explore in preschool because they can be found everywhere. Begin the week by taking the children outside on a bird watching expedition. Bring along a few pairs of binoculars for them to take turns using. If you have one, take along a Polaroid camera and take pictures of the different birds you find. Later, you can identify them in a bird guide.

Good Bird Book

About Birds - a guide for children
by John Sill (editor)

Let the children gather around and look at the photographs in this book. Let them compare the birds they saw on their walk to the birds in the book. Are any of them the same? If so, read some facts that the children may find interesting.

Bird Calls

While you were on your walk did you hear any interesting sounds? Did the birds make any noises? Nearly all birds have a voice and use their voices to call or sing. A call consists of a single sound. A song consists of a series of sounds in a definite pattern. Give each child the chance to make a bird call or bird song. Just for fun, you can let them pass a microphone (or megaphone if you don't have a microphone) so their birdcalls are loud and majestic.

Good Books

Birdsong
by Audrey Wood

Franny B. Kranny There's a Bird in Your Hair
By Harriet Lerner

When Agnes Caws
By Candace Fleming

Messy Table

Puff Dough

You can tie this fun recipe into the bird theme by using the dough to make fluffy clouds. Birds fly in the sky through clouds of all different shapes. Let the children form clouds that look like animals and other objects.

Recipe

1 cup flour
1 cup water
1 bag of white, cotton balls

Mix flour and water together to make a paste. Roll cotton balls in the paste and carefully lift them out. Excess paste will fall off. Let the children form the dough into desired shapes on a baking sheet. Bake the shapes for one hour at 325 degrees.

For more information on
Mercer County Schools
Pre-K Collaborative
Programs please contact:

CASE Head Start

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Imagination Station Daycare & Learning Center

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Learning Tree House Child Care Center

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Mother Goose Child Care Center

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Mercer County Schools

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MERCER COUNTY SCHOOLS PRE~K COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM

CREATIVE CURRICULUM



A GREAT BEGINNING FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

What is the Mercer County Schools WV Pre-K Program?

WV Pre-K programs are designed to prepare children for school by offering a range of experiences based on early learning standards.

They offer a balance of activities including :

- Active and quiet times
- Large and small group activities
- Center times
- Indoor and outdoor play times
- Child-initiated and teacher planned activities

West Virginia Pre-K programs can be located in schools or within the community through partnerships. Mercer County Schools partners with CASE Head Start, Imagination Station, Learning Tree House and Mother Goose childcare centers to provide Universal Pre-K classes. According to West Virginia law, classes must be available for all four-year-olds whose families wish to participate by the 2012-2013 school year. Current classes are offered on a first come, first-served basis.

What curriculum do we use in a Collaborative Classroom?

All PreK classrooms in Mercer County including Mercer County Schools use *Creative Curriculum*. It is a curriculum that is based on scientific research that children learn best in their most natural environment of play. Children are individually assessed by the teacher who in turn sets up the learning environment with activities that will promote learning. The Pre-K curriculum is aligned with state Early Learning Standards Framework (ELSF) and kindergarten Next Generation Standards.



Creative Curriculum Learning Centers Include:

The *Creative Curriculum* focuses on interest areas. These interest areas, or "*learning centers*" are designed to support children's development.

The learning centers include:

- Blocks Center
- Dramatic Play Center
- Manipulative Center
- Creativity Center
- Sensory Table Center
- Library Center
- Music and Movement Center
- Science Center
- Outdoor Center

