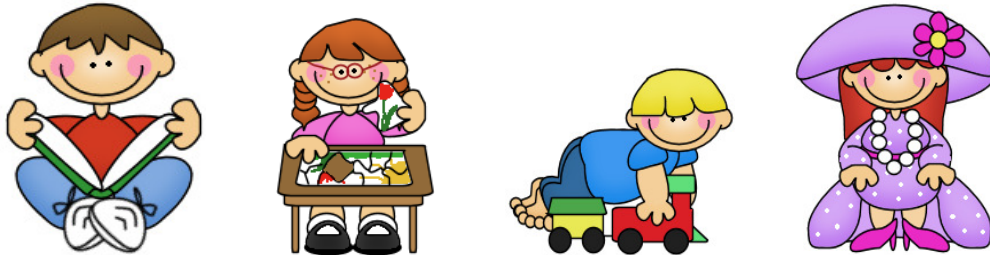


## PRESCHOOL AND OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR PROGRAM



We do offer a preschool program. Each week we have a preschool theme that some of our activities will be based around as well as alphabet focus. At times we will have field trips, special days or movies related to the theme. Every week I create a plan for the week. This plan includes a mixture of small motor, large muscle, art, science/sensory, math, reading/writing, singing and cooking. If the group is struggling with a particular concept we may continue with that same concept the following week.

On any given day, regardless of the theme, circle time is a mixture of any of the following; "check in" our picture (name recognition), weather discussion, calendar (number, season, month, day of the week), letter, shape, color recognition, letter sounds and counting. We use a variety of tools for teaching: singing, flash cards, home made posters, language discussions to engage the children in brainstorming, books on tape, interactive home made games; such as file folder games.



We have created an environment especially for the children in our care. We provide toys and equipment size appropriate for the children in our care with easy access to items of interest. We have a print rich environment to promote emergent reading skills. Our preschool provides educational toys in centers: reading/math/manipulatives/dramatic play/art/ building/science/sensory/writing/listening. Art projects focus on process rather than product, and are displayed for the children to be proud of. Daily activities are tailored specifically to meet the need of the entire mixed aged group, so that all children are able to participate at their own interest level. Children are not forced to do any of the planned activities. One child may prefer to do art but choose to sit out for a writing activity. We encourage independence in teaching self help skills.

Apple Tree currently has five enrichment programs visit the preschool as part of our weekly schedule. These programs provide learning through activities focused in geography, literacy, fitness, nutrition, cooking and sign language. In addition, the Dakota County bookmobile visits our daycare bi-weekly. Apple Tree offers Scholastic book club ordering to enrolled families.

During the summer months we have preschool activities but do not have a specific weekly theme focus. Our summer days are filled with many community outings, visiting enrichment programs and outdoor/water play. In August a photographer visit's the daycare and each child receives a special class photo, parents are able to purchase portraits if they choose.

We do encourage family involvement through our Mother's Day and Father's Day special events and our family summer picnic. Parents are welcome to participate in helping with a holiday party or field trip. We also appreciate parent involvement when your child is asked to bring a special item or wear something pertaining to our theme. Apple Tree conducts yearly conferences in the Spring, when requested by a parent or as we feel necessary. Apple Tree provides a special date night to its families during the holidays and a yearly slideshow DVD.

Our goals for your child:

- Success in the real world
- Instill self esteem, that the child may be proud of *themselves* rather than wanting to be someone else
- Instill a love for learning
- Independence
- Respect for *all* others
- Accountability

We believe our job as your child's caregiver is to keep your child safe. To be a nurturing, educated role model and like "coach." We will coach your children towards all the above goals. We coach the children rather than tell them how to do a task, meeting your child wherever they are in different areas.



#### PRESCHOOL THEMES AND EVENTS

Below is an example list of themes and events.

##### JANUARY

- ~Winter
- ~Snow/Snowmen
- ~Mittens
- ~Arctic Animals
- ~Jan Brett Books

##### FEBRUARY

- ~Dental Health
- ~Friendship
- ~Valentine's Day party
- ~Bears
- ~Hibernation Party

##### MARCH

- ~Dr. Seuss
- ~Ducks
- ~St. Patrick's Day party
- ~Eric Carle Books
- ~Pets
- ~Spring Break field trips

##### APRIL

- ~Easter
- ~Egg hunt/bunny visit
- ~Spring
- ~Our Earth
- ~Gardening

##### MAY

- ~Zoo Animals
- ~Mother's Day event
- ~Farm Animals
- ~Insects
- ~Weather/Seasons

##### SEPTEMBER

- ~All About Me
- ~Family
- ~Apples
- ~Nursery Rhymes
- Fairy Tales
- ~Fire muster parade

##### OCTOBER

- ~Leaves/Fall
- ~Fire Prevention related field trip
- ~Pumpkins
- ~Costume party
- ~Related field trips

##### NOVEMBER

- ~Transportation
- ~Hats and Shoes
- ~Thanksgiving
- ~Thanksgiving feast
- ~Community Helpers
- ~Related field trips

##### DECEMBER

- ~Gingerbread, Reindeer and Santa
- ~Happy Birthday Jesus!
- ~Trip to Macy's Santa
- ~Christmas party
- ~Parent date night

#### OTHER THEMES AND EVENTS

- |             |             |                       |                    |          |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Colors      | Camping     | U.S.A. party          | Under the Sea      | Manners  |
| Beach/Luau  | Nutrition   | August picnic         | Father's Day event | 5 Senses |
| Tye Dye Day | Picture Day | Butterfly exploration |                    |          |



Children enrolled at Apple Tree must be able to be transported in our passenger van. We have outings for fun or as related to a theme topic we may be learning about and/or transporting to area schools. More information regarding field trips will be given.

Some field trips we have had:

- |                   |                           |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| ~Humane Society   | ~Puppet Shows             | ~The Blast          |
| ~MN Zoo           | ~Bowling                  | ~Maple Maze         |
| ~Como Zoo         | ~Children's Museum        | ~County Fair        |
| ~Chuck E. Cheese  | ~Pet Hospital             | ~Grocery Tour       |
| ~Dominoes Tour    | ~Gibbs Farm               | ~Pumpkin Patch      |
| ~Movie Theater    | ~Visit Santa/Easter bunny | ~Science Museum     |
| ~Edinborough Park | ~Raptor Center            | ~Nature Centers     |
| ~Apple Orchards   | ~Planetarium              | ~Neighborhood Parks |
| ~Old Log Theater  | ~Fishing                  | ~Beaches            |

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