



St. James' Church Day School is a developmental preschool program that prepares children for kindergarten. The Day School is licensed by NYS and the head teachers are NYS certified and the staff is dedicated and experienced. Our objective is to provide an enriching environment in which children can develop at their own pace and reach their highest potential. Through play and guided activities children learn independence as well as how to interact and cooperate with a peer group of children. Children also learn to respect themselves, respect others and respect property.

Our program revolves around activities designed to promote the social, physical, emotional, intellectual and creative development of the child. The first part of the morning is devoted to free play when students have choices of activities. These activities are both teacher directed and student directed. Some of the materials and equipment available include puzzles, games, blocks, animals, a dramatic play area, a water/sand table, a listening center, a writing center, books and a wide variety of arts and crafts materials. St. James' Day School also offers a computer station and an enclosed outdoor play area. These resources all help to increase the child's gross and fine motor skills, language and reasoning ability, creative thinking, literacy and artistic skills as well as their social development.

Free play is followed by a group circle time which includes a welcome song, the weather and calendar and a theme related story. This is also the time for any necessary group discussions about special activities and projects or special events such as birthdays and holidays. The students are recognized on their birthday with a song and a crown and they bring snack that day; half birthdays are celebrated for June, July and August birthdays.

The class is divided into two groups for snack and a project after circle time. Each group is with one teacher (eight children per group) and these groups change every month or so giving each child the opportunity to be with both teachers as well as a variety of classmates throughout the year. The projects vary depending on the current theme and literature. Some theme topics include: friends, falling leaves, holidays around the world, valentine bears, baskets & bunnies and bugs & butterflies. The projects are designed to help develop the child's ability to listen and follow directions while exploring with many craft materials and increasing fine motor skills as well. There are teacher directed projects as well as free art projects. We encourage independent, imaginative efforts so that children will create projects of their own and help develop self confidence. The morning ends with a group large motor activity that includes music and movement. Throughout our morning, the program is designed to satisfy a child's drives and needs. This encourages motivation for learning as well as provides for the development of self esteem.

In September the class is assessed with an abbreviated checklist to determine the needs of the group. In the spring each child is screened individually to assess their development and see how they have progressed.

Students enrolled in St. James' Day School also have the opportunity to have an extended day experience two days a week or every day. **A Lunch Bunch option is available from 11:30 – 1:30 two days or all four days.** Lunch Bunch sign up is on a month to month basis. Lunch Bunch is an extension of our regular 9:00 – 11:30 morning pre-kindergarten program. Children attending Lunch Bunch are at school from 9:00 – 1:30 and bring a lunch.

Below are examples of themes and special events that are usually incorporated into the annual plan. However, it is important to realize that each class has different needs and abilities and that the program's activities are largely determined by these factors.

Themes:

Fall

Welcome Friends
Picking Apples
Exploring Safety
Animals In Fall
Pumpkins and Leaves
Halloween Fun
Harvest Fest

Winter

Holidays Around the World
Santa is Coming to Town
Friends in the Snow
Animals In Winter
Winter Nights

Spring

Over the Rainbow
Baskets & Bunnies
April Showers
Bugs & Butterflies
Mother's Day
Summer Fun

Special Events:

Fall

Apple Orchard Visit
Fire House Visit
Hayride to Pumpkin Patch
Halloween Celebration
Scarecrow Day
Thanksgiving Feast

Winter

Nutcracker Puppet Show
Holiday Celebration
Pajama Day
Valentine's Day

Spring

KAC Ballet
Kindergarten Visit
Zoo Visit
Silly Hat Day
Mother's Day Brunch
Beach Party Day

The following goals are incorporated within the program:

- language and literacy development through books and writing/dictating
- oral communication and expression (i.e. "show & tell", encouraged to "use words")
- to develop listening skills (following directions, listening to stories, etc.)
- to introduce science concepts (growing, seasons, weather, senses, simple experiments)
- to introduce math concepts (graphing, sorting, size and spatial concepts)
- to develop critical thinking and cooperation

