

PRE-K 337

Curriculum

2023-2024

Mr. Al
and Ms. Evette

“I believe the power of children
can change us.” – Travis Wright

PLAY... all day every day!

A typical conversation after school may look like this..

INT. DINNER TABLE - NIGHT

Parent:What did you do at school today?

Child:Nothing, I just played!

PROCESSING:

Play is the essential work that people do, not just children.

Adults and older children internalize almost everything. READ, MEDITATE, THINK...
INTERNAL *PROCESSING*.

This age group operates outside of themselves,
EMOTIONS, PROBLEMS/SOLUTIONS,
RAW and HONEST.

PLAY: is the synthesis of known and new information being used and tested together to balance the external and internal worlds of self.

Play in children can be looked as...
EXTERNAL PROCESSING.

How do you play?

Talk of journey...

I play while wandering and taking photos
I play with my wife, we play cards, listen
to records and talk smack

PLAY is something we all can do, and the ambassadors of this world are the children in our lives. They are the models to tap into something beyond our daily reality.

You are in contact with a person who can help you with this joy, this part of you that is always there.

Daily Schedule - Arrival / Breakfast

- To develop independent work skills.
- To encourage critical thinking skills.
- To help students transition to school each day, and to ease separation anxiety.
- To feel welcomed by familiar people and friends.
aka, Inhouse "Family of Learners"

Daily Schedule - Transitions

- A 3-5 minute warning is given by ringing a chime or singing bowl.
- A visual timer is used for the children to understand how much time is left.
- To put materials away and encourage teamwork by helping others.

Daily Schedule - Circle Time/Rug Meetings

- To build community through shared and written information.
- To work on letter and sound recognition (ex: Monday starts with the letter "M").
- To utilize math in an authentic way (ex: calendar, songs).
- Share verbal experiences
- Concepts of time and change

Daily Schedule - Content Study / "Wondertime"

- To develop inquiry skills that promote higher order thinking and an increased depth of knowledge.
- Research skills – Observe, discuss, chart, list, label, develop/generate questions, write, visit, etc.
- Engage in fieldwork and ongoing projects to demonstrate understanding of unit study.

Critical thinking - built on prior knowledge

- Read Aloud - To model reading behaviors.

- To develop listening skills, stamina and comprehension (rich text).
- Books that support/develop understanding of genres, authors, and subjects.
- To encourage critical thinking and use prior knowledge to make meaningful connections.
- Creates an environment full of questions and sometimes answers during group conversations which helps foster communication skills and continued wonderment and curiosity.

"Centers" Time

- To learn through developmental play.
- To explore learned concepts through pretend play, blocks, art, etc.
- To develop socially & emotionally through cooperative play, turn taking and problem solving.

Breakfast/Lunch

- Social times where students communicate to each other and adults in an open forum.
- Fine motor skills are learned in the rituals of "eating" as individuals among others.

Relax Time

- A time in the class, where students can relax or sleep to get ready for the afternoon.

- Gross motor, self control and self regulation skills are learned during this relaxing time of the day.
- Stamina building for pre-literacy skills

Communication

- Take Home Folders an
“empty folder is a happy folder”
- email: along@sprucestreetnyc.org
24-48hr return message time

- Notes for Mr. Al & Ms. Evette
- Side conversations before or after school mini-meeting
- Monday afternoon *family engagement* time 3:30 – 4:15 pm (email to book an in person or Zoom meeting)
- Monthly Update Letter
- Parent Teacher Conferences

- Report Cards/Progress Reports & Email

CONTENT STUDY OVERVIEW

September	SELF: Who am I? What is school?
October - December	How do we learn through our senses?
January - March	SELF INTEREST:

Community Helpers
/Storytelling/relationships

April - June

SCHOOL INTEREST:
What can we
learn about nature?

Ways we learn in Pre-K 241

- "Wonder time" into centers/synthesis time
- Table top, small groups, hands on exploration
- "Event" based play (re-memories)
- "Malleable Technology"

- Visual Thinking Strategies
- “Book buddies/Be Buddies/Feeling Friends

BIRTHDAYS: Let's celebrate!

- Loved ones in person or virtual visit, and read a special book or make a pre-recorded read aloud.
- The birthday girl/boy picks out two dance songs.

- Epic dance party will commence.
- Birthday song, and treat eating

Parent Involvement

- Parents are welcome in the learning experience by volunteering to teach in person or (via Zoom) new skills. Contact me if you are interested in any way.
- Walking trips around the neighborhood

We are *all* learning, all day, every day; together.
The learning does not stop at the door