

Pre-K 3's Language Arts Thematic Units

Unit 1: *New Places, New Faces* (getting to know school and each other)

Unit 2: *Discovery Street* (learning about our community)

Unit 3: *Tabby Tiger's Diner* (food and nutrition)

Unit 4: *Healthy Me* (staying healthy and healthcare professionals)

Unit 5: *Vroom! Vroom!* (transportation)

Unit 6: *Build It Big!* (construction and tools)

Unit 7: *Our Water Wonderland* (uses of water, marine life, rainbows)

Unit 8: *Backyard Detectives* (growing things including insects and flowers)

Pre-K 4's Language Arts Thematic Units

Unit 1 *All about Pre-K*

Unit 2 *All About Me*

Unit 3 *My Community*

Unit 4 *Let's Investigate*

Unit 5 *Amazing Animals*

Unit 6 *Growing and Changing*

Unit 7 *The Earth and Sky*

Unit 8 *Healthy Food/ Healthy Body*



WHAT CHILDREN LEARN IN THE:



Block Area:

- Concepts of shapes, size, length and location
- To exercise imagination and creativity
- To create and repeat patterns
- To express ideas
- To cooperate with others
- To solve problems
- Counting
- Concepts related to people and how they live

Parental Home Support- When taking a walk in your neighborhood, point out roads and interesting buildings - Make a set of blocks out of milk cartons, which come in different sizes - Find a place where your child can play with blocks safely - Add interesting objects such as cars, people, plastic animals and other items that will extend their play and inspire new ideas



Dramatic Area:

- To exercise imagination and creativity
- To solve problems
- To make decisions
- To improve and use things in a symbolic way
- To carry out ideas with cooperation of others
- To try out adult roles
- To develop language skills
- To sort and organize

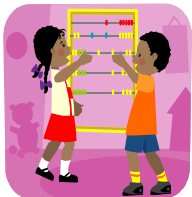
Parental Home Support-Place a sheet over a table to create a house or a hide-out - Use a large empty cardboard box to become a pirate ship, castle, train, etc... - Collect some old clothes that your child can use for dress up - Save food cartoons - Make some play money and play store - Read stories together and involve your child in acting out different parts of the story



Library Area:

- Letters written on a page represent words
- Learning to read is important and enjoyable
- The meaning of many words
- To express thoughts, feelings and ideas
- To interpret pictures to represent ideas
- To listen to spoken language
- To make up stories
- To handle books with care
- To recognize words when seen in print

Parental Home Support- Spend at least 15 minutes a day reading aloud to your child - Encourage your child to talk about the stories that you read - Ask questions such as “I wonder what will happen next?” - Try to relate the story to something in your child’s life - Visit the Library and check out books that interest your child - Give your child paper, pens, pencils or markers and let him experiment with writing - Discuss the author, illustrator and other parts of a book



Small Toys and Manipulatives:

- Eye-hand coordination
- Concepts of shapes, sizes, colors and locations
- Number concepts
- To create and reproduce patterns
- Sorting
- Problem solving
- One-to-one correspondence
- Concepts of addition and subtraction

Parental Home Support- Count the steps as you walk up and down stairs – Identify shapes all around your home – Practice using puzzles, peg boards and string beads - Create patterns with blocks or pieces of cereal – Make a counting book and have your child paste pictures on each page – Name colors of fruits and vegetables in the grocery store



Writing Area:

- Strengthen their fine motor control
- Use communication skills
- Connect written words with spoken word
- Use their imagination as they "write" notes or label their work
- Teachers encourage children to "write", draw, and manipulate provided resources
- A natural vehicle for children to express their feelings
- Reflect their thoughts and emotions through choice of color, texture and media
- Express their originality and individuality
- Small muscle development is defined
- Fosters vocabulary development as children learn and use related technology

Parental Home Support- Provide children supplies such as pencils, markers, crayons, finger paint, envelopes, tape, stickers, folder games, magazines, letter tiles, number tiles, clip boards, magnet letters, etc., to encourage writing at home



Science Area:

- New vocabulary
- Concepts of texture, color, weight, size, shape, volume
- Sort objects into categories to observe similarities and differences
- Make predictions
- Observe changes
- To appreciate nature and develop a sense of wonder
- To solve problems
- Eye-hand coordination

Parental Home Support- Take a nature walk – Bake cookies – Make bubbles – When child is exploring, ask questions such as...“What do you think will happen if...” I wonder why...” How do you think we can find out?’ – Talk about the weather – Plant a garden – Take care of a pet – Feed the birds



Sensory Area: (Sand & Water)

- Learn concepts such as soft, hard, wet, dry, heavy, light, warm, cold, sizes and shapes
- Strengthen small muscles as they mold and shape
- Encourage scientific exploration and engage children in making careful observations as they classify, compare, measure and problem-solve
- Expand their language and learn new words such as grainy, sprinkle, shallow and sift

Parental Home Support- Provide children supplies such as play dough, clay, finger paint, water, sand to encourage sensory exploration at home - Blowing bubbles – Bring in a bin of snow – Build sandcastles at the beach etc.

Cooking is also a sensory experience and a great way to provide your children opportunities to enhance their skills in math, literacy and science. In addition, cooking sets the stage for life long healthy eating habits.



Music and Movement:

- Balance and coordination
- To distinguish sounds
- Vocabulary
- Memory skills, Sequencing
- Concepts of fast, slow, loud and soft
- Awareness and identification of cultures
- To be conscious of the moods and rhythms of music
- Self-expression

Parental Home Support- Make your own musical instruments out of cardboard tubes and paper plates – Sing directions to your child during clean-up time and other transition times – Dance with your child and move to music on the radio or TV – Vary the speed of the music and change the rhythms – Sing nursery rhymes, songs, and finger plays everyday