

Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Center
613 Court Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269)983-0040

Christians bringing hope, healing and caring to the community

Program Goals

Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Center aims to provide an excellent early school experience while fostering the child's spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. God has made each child differently and wonderfully. Development can not be hurried or rushed because all children develop at different rates according to the way that God has made them. Development is intrinsic and can not be hurried by experiences. Experiences foster the development that has occurred or is occurring. Trends in child development do exist, but can not be traced to an exact age in which children will pass from one developmental stage to another. Therefore, it is the goal of Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Center to help children enjoy their development and school experience while keeping these overall goals in mind:

Spiritual Development

Children will:

- *see themselves as children of God
- *know that Jesus died on the cross for them
- *know that there is forgiveness for their sins
- *love Jesus
- *know that Jesus loves them
- *enjoy worship experiences
- *learn to love others
- *know that the Bible is the true word of God

Social Development

Children will:

- *learn to share and take turns
- *work and play with other children and be kind to one another
- *develop problem-solving strategies
- *listen and follow directions
- *participate in the activities of the school day
- *initiate play with other children
- *develop the ability to regulate how they express their emotions

Emotional Development

Children will:

- *build a positive self-esteem
- *become comfortable and happy with the school environment
- *gain independence
- *feel secure in the school environment
- *feel love and acceptance

Physical Development

Children will:

- *develop better motor control
- *practice large motor skills (hopping, skipping, jumping, running, etc.)
- *practice small motor skills (cutting, coloring, gluing, grasping, etc.)
- *use a variety of motor development equipment
- *recognize body parts

Cognitive Development

Children will:

- *learn to count and identify numbers
- *learn to identify and name shapes and colors
- *learn to identify and name the capital letters of the alphabet
- *learn to write their names
- *learn about themselves and the world around them
- *learn mathematical skills like categorizing, sorting, matching, sequencing, etc.
- *enjoy the learning process and experience
- *learn to solve simple mathematics problems
- *learn to express self through the arts

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Curriculum Objectives

Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Center will use the following curriculum objectives for planning activities, games, events, and lessons. Because we understand that all children develop uniquely, mastery is not required for each objective. These objectives clearly outline the types of things your child will have the opportunity to learn and experience. Each classroom will have slightly different objectives for each of the curricular areas. We will be using the “Voyages” curriculum published by Concordia Publishing House and various other resources to plan the daily activities of the classroom. The Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality have also been used in developing our program. We have listed the corresponding Michigan ECSQ behind each objective for your reference. The daily activities and lessons will aim to provide the opportunity for all children to meet the following curricular objectives:

Religion Objectives

3-year old children will have the opportunity to:

- *know that God loves them (TLECC)
- *learn that God made them (TLECC)
- *learn that Jesus is their friend (TLECC)
- *recognize the Bible as God’s Word (TLECC)
- *know that Jesus died on the cross for them (TLECC)
- *learn that the wrong things we do are called sins (TLECC)
- *know that Jesus forgives us (TLECC)
- *join in various worship activities (TLECC)
- *sing and remember songs (TLECC)
- *say prayers from memory (TLECC)
- *recognize that God made the world (TLECC)
- *learn stories from the Bible (TLECC)
- *praise God through music (TLECC)

4-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to:

- *talk about how Jesus grew to be a man who served God, His Father (TLECC)
- *know that God always loves them, even when they do bad things (TLECC)
- *distinguish Bible stories from imagination and fantasy (TLECC)
- *care for others by serving them (TLECC)
- *know that God is all-powerful (TLECC)
- *know that God sends angels to protect us (TLECC)
- *learn that God gives us all that we need (TLECC)
- *say prayers spontaneously (TLECC)
- *forgive other people (TLECC)
- *help other people (TLECC)
- *learn that God hears and answers our prayers (TLECC)

5-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to:

- *Identify people at church that serve God professionally (TLECC)
- *know that Sunday is a special day of worship (TLECC)
- *want to please God with their actions (TLECC)
- *act out Bible stories (TLECC)
- *know that God is everywhere and knows everything (TLECC)
- *remember and tell Bible stories to others (TLECC)
- *learn that God makes and keeps His promises (TLECC)

Social Objectives

3-year old children will have the opportunity to:

- *express needs and wants without conflict (Social Emotional Development 2.1)
- *share with others (SED 3.1)
- *participate in a group (SED 3.7)
- *play near or with other children (SED 3.6)
- *follow simple directions (SED 2.2)
- *respond agreeably to adults (SED 3.1)
- *develop self-control (SED 2.1, 3.2)
- *participate during clean up (SED 2.3, 3.8)
- *respond to questions (SED 3.1)
- *begin to move away from egocentrism (being centered on oneself) (SED3.4)
- *become more articulate with speech sounds (SED 1.3, 1.5)
- *distinguish between good and bad (TLECC)
- *participate in “show and tell” (SED 1.1)
- *use materials purposefully, safely, and respectfully (SED 2.3)

4-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to:

- *share willingly (SED 3.1)
- *become involved in using rules when playing with others (SED 3.1)
- *take turns during games (SED 2.2, 3.7)
- *develop closer friendships (SED 3.6)
- *become more aware of the social world (SED1.5)
- *articulate thoughts more clearly (SED1.3)
- *follow more than one direction (SED 2.2)
- *increase vocabulary (SED 1.3, 1.6)
- *begin using language to express emotions (SED 1.3)

5-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to:

- *do kind acts to others (SED 3.1, 3.4, 3.6)
- *speak using complex sentence structures (SED 1.3)
- *follow more than two simple directions (SED 2.2)
- *develop lasting relationships (SED 3.6)
- *increase their social confidence (SED 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 3.8)
- *begin to understand jokes and sarcasm (TLECC)
- *respect individual differences (SED 3.3)
- *understand the feelings of others (SED 3.4)
- *“read” to a friend or teacher (SED 3.1)
- *develop better listening skills (SED3.7)

Emotional Objectives

3-year old children will have the opportunity to:

- *develop a positive self-image (SED 1.1)
- *enjoy school (SED 3.8)
- *feel happy about learning (TLECC)
- *handle separation adequately (SED2.6)
- *accept changes in the routine (SED 2.5)
- *share adult attention (SED 3.1)
- *express negative emotions appropriately (SED 1.3)
- *express positive emotions appropriately (SED1.3)
- *ask for help when having difficulty with a task (SED 2.4)
- *try new experiences (SED 2.6)

4-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to:

- *learn and accept their strengths and weaknesses (SED 1.1)
- *begin to recognize and respect the feelings and needs of others (SED 3.4)

5-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to:

- *recognize and respect the feelings and needs of others (SED 3.4)
- *become more independent (SED 1.4)
- *support others in need of help or encouragement (SED 3.5)

Physical Objectives

3-year old children will have the opportunity to:

- *participate in outdoor play (Physical Development and Health 1.3)
- *participate in instructional “gym time” (PDH 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
- *exhibit ease in body movement (PDH 2.2)
- *use manipulatives adequately (PDH 3.1)
- *run forward, jump in place with both feet together, walk on tiptoes, kick, throw, and bounce a ball, walk on a line, balance, and move to music (PDH 2.1, 2.3)
- *move creatively (PDH 2.2)
- *manipulate blocks for building (PDH 3.1)
- *manipulate crayons, scissors, paint brushes, and pencils (PDH 3.1)
- *pour using a pitcher (PDH 3.2)
- *manage own clothing adequately (PDH 3.2)
- *enjoy large and small motor activities (PDH 4.2)
- *turn pages in a book (PDH 3.2)
- *hold crayon with thumb and fingers (PDH 3.1)
- *develop good personal care and hygiene practices (PDH 5.1)
- *learn and apply the benefits of nutritious eating (PDH 7.1, 7.2)

4-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to:

- *gallop, skip, jump, and leap (PDH 2.1)
- *walk on a line (PDH 2.3)
- *toss and catch an object (PDH 2.3)
- *cut items out with a scissors (PDH 3.1)
- *begin learning left and right sides of their body (PDH 1.2)

- *manipulate a parachute (PDH 2.3)
- *write their names clearly (PDH 3.1)
- *manipulate buttons, zippers, laces, and snaps (PDH 3.2)
- *practice gymnastics moves like forward roll, log roll, bear walk, etc. (PDH 2.3)
- *balance on one foot for 5-10 seconds (PDH 2.3)

5-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to:

- *play organized motor development games (PDH 4.1)
- *jump rope (PDH 2.3)
- *jump forward repeatedly (PDH 2.1)
- *do forward rolls (PDH 2.3)
- *use proper pencil grip (PDH 3.1)
- *cut items out accurately with a scissors (PDH 3.1)
- *color within lines quite well (PDH 3.1)
- *draw shapes (PDH 3.1)
- *print capital letters (PDH 3.1)
- *exercise for longer periods of time (PDH 1.3)

Cognitive Objectives

The cognitive objectives are organized according to the different subject areas.

Language Arts

3-year old children will have the opportunity to learn to:

- *point to a picture or object (Language and Early Literacy Development 1.C.4, 3.8)
- *recall the names of things in their environment (LELD 3.4)
- *give their first and last name (LELD 3.1)
- *recite simple prayers and songs (LELD 3.1)
- *enjoy books and being read to (LELD 6.1)
- *write their names (LELD 2.5)
- *identify the first letter in their names (LELD 1.B.1)
- *become better listeners (LELD 4.3)
- *enjoy sensory experiences (TLECC)
- *follow simple one-step directions (LELD 4.2)
- *effectively communicate with teachers and classmates (LELD 3.2, 3.1)
- *locate and name their major body parts (LELD 3.2, 3.4)
- *dictate their ideas and thoughts (LELD 1.A.1)

4-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to learn to:

- *identify each letter of the alphabet (LELD 1.B.1)
- *write their names (LELD 2.5)
- *communicate information they have acquired (LELD 3.4)
- *expand their vocabulary (LELD 1.A.2)
- *identify the cover and title of a book (LELD 1.C.2)
- *understand that books have authors, illustrators, characters, and stories (LELD 1.A.5, 1.C.5)
- *retell a story (LELD 1.A.1)
- *pick out a story's beginning, middle, and end (TLECC)

- *enjoy “reading” books (LELD 1.A.4)
- *distinguish the different sounds that letters make (phonemic awareness)(LELD 1.B.1)
- *use words to solve problems more effectively (LELD 1.C.3)
- *role-play someone other than themselves (LELD 3.7)
- *follow more complex directions involving more than one step (LELD 4.2)

5-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to learn to:

- *identify the letters of the alphabet and produce some of the sounds that they represent (LELD 1.B.1)
- *identify the title, title page, pages, and some basic words in books (LELD 1.C.2)
- *feel comfortable with reading books using the pictures as clues (LELD 1.A.3)
- *understand humor much better (TLECC)
- *“read” a book or sentence from left to right (LELD 1.A.4)
- *predict outcomes of a story (LELD 1.A.3)
- *express themselves more clearly (LELD 3.2)
- *make up a story on their own (LELD 2.4)
- *practice writing letters of the alphabet (LELD 2.8)
- *identify rhyming words (LELD 3.3, 1.B.3)

Math

3-year old children will have the opportunity to learn to:

- *identify shapes (Early Learning in Mathematics 8.1)
- *count to 10 orally (ELM 7.1, 7.8)
- *count out 5 objects accurately (ELM 7.3)
- *do simple puzzles (TLECC)
- *sort objects that are distinctly different (ELM 2.2)
- *distinguish more and less, short and long, empty and full, etc. (ELM 2.1)
- *match shapes (ELM 8.1)
- *begin to identify numbers (ELM 7.4, 7.5)
- *build using blocks and other manipulatives (ELM 2.3)
- *recognize patterns (ELM 3.1, 3.4)

4-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to learn to:

- *identify all shapes (ELM 8.1, 8.3)
- *count to 15 orally (ELM 7.8)
- *identify numbers 1-10 (ELM 7.5, 7.4)
- *count out at least 10 objects accurately (ELM 7.3)
- *seriate objects according to size or length (ELM 2.3)
- *name the days of the week and use a calendar (ELM 5.3)
- *become more proficient using blocks and other manipulatives (ELM 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)
- *develop patterns using shapes, colors, beads, etc. (ELM 3.1)
- *use a weather graph (ELM 6.8)
- *continue patterns (ELM 3.1)

5-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to learn to:

- *count to at least 20 orally (ELM 7.8)
- *identify numbers 1-20 (ELM 7.4)
- *count out 20 objects accurately (ELM 7.3)

- *create patterns on their own (ELM 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)
- *read a graph or chart (ELM 6.8)
- *use a geoboard to learn about area, perimeter, and geometry (ELM 5.7)
- *do some basic addition using manipulatives (ELM 1.4)
- *measure objects using a ruler (ELM 5.8)

Science

3-year old children will have the opportunity to learn to:

- *recognize and use their senses to explore God’s world (Early Learning in Science 2.6)
- *compare and contrast animals, trees, objects, etc. (ELS 2.2)
- *recognize the 4 seasons (ELS 3.1)
- *identify morning, day, and night (ELM 5.3, 5.4)
- *perform basic, fun experiments (ELS 1.5)
- *identify objects that will sink and float (ELS 2.7)
- *use magnets to explore magnetism (ELS 2.8)

4-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to learn to:

- *make fairly accurate predictions (ELS 1.3)
- *perform guided experiments (ELS 1.5)
- *plant and care for something that will grow (ELS 2.3)
- *describe changes that occur in the world during the 4 seasons (ELS 3.1)
- *describe the functions of some of the major body parts (brain, heart, lungs, etc.) (ELS 2.6)
- *describe and classify different kinds of landforms (soil, sand, rock, etc.) (ELS 3.2)
- *identify animals that hibernate (ELS 2.4)
- *weigh objects using a balance (ELM 5.8)

5-year old children will ALSO have the opportunity to learn to:

- *record information gained during an experiment (ELS 1.5)

Social Studies

All children will have the opportunity to learn to:

- *see who they are in the larger world around them (Early Learning in Social Studies 2.2)
- *love and help other people (ELSS 2.4)
- *perceive how others feel (lonely, angry, happy, etc.) (TLECC)
- *follow the rules of the classroom and school (ELSS 4.1, 4.2)
- *play and work with other children and adults (TLECC)
- *communicate verbally more proficiently (ELSS 2.1)
- *become more aware of helpers in our community (police, doctor, etc.) (ELSS 5.1)
- *“read” familiar signs from society (STOP, EXIT, HANDICAPPED, etc.) (TLECC)
- *identify and name members of their family (ELSS 2.1)
- *seek out involvement in a group (TLECC)
- *accept that God made the world and everything in it (TLECC)
- *identify and name members of their class (ELSS 2.1)
- *participate in improving their environment (ELSS 6.2)

Music

All children will have the opportunity to learn to:

- *enjoy music (TLECC)
- *clap to a beat produced by a teacher (Creative Development 2.1)
- *move creatively to music (CD 3.1)
- *perform musical finger plays (CD 2.1)
- *enjoy keeping rhythm using instruments (CD 2.4)
- *memorize songs (TLECC)
- *play musical games (CD 2.1)
- *discern between loud and soft; fast and slow; high and low (CD 2.3)
- *identify music and sound as vibrations (CD 2.3)
- *distinguish between different musical instruments (CD 2.4)
- *identify “music” in nature (birds, wind, waves, etc.) (ELS 2.3, 3.4)

Art

All children will have the opportunity to learn to:

- *enjoy creating a “masterpiece” of their own (CD 1.1)
- *become more proficient when using art materials (crayons, pencils, brushes, etc.) (CD 1.1)
- *appreciate their art work and others (CD 3.3)
- *follow a plan for doing certain projects (CD 1.2)
- *be creative in open-ended art projects (CD 1.1)
- *experience various media (paint, chalk, clay, glue, etc.) (CD 1.1)
- *do 2D and 3D art activities (CD 1.1)
- *add more and more details to their drawings (CD 1.4)
- *draw a self-portrait (CD 1.4)
- *mix colors to make other colors (TLECC)
- *identify different textures (CD 1.3)
- *express their feelings in their art work (CD 5.1, 5.6)
- *listen to music while working creatively on a project (TLECC)