

# Our Curriculum



*"We do more than help get kids ready for kindergarten—we help them get ready for life!"*

## Overview

### The concept of our curriculum is simple.

We very selectively choose components from a number of curriculum tools to best meet the needs of the children we serve. Then, before we teach a single thing, we wrap those components in our proprietary curriculum called, "Learn-At-Play®." For the 2009-2010 school year, those components consist of "Handwriting Without Tears®, Frog Street Press®, Saxon Math®, and Success By 6®."



Each of these excellent curriculum components could be used as a stand-alone program. In fact, many other day care centers use them like that. Instead,

we take the best from each, and then "govern" them using our philosophy formed during our more than 30 years of experience and hands-on commitment to excellence in child development and care. **Learn-At-Play®** is founded and administered on the following premises.

- **God designed children to have a genuine delight in play.**
- **Latest brain development research shows that children learn things faster and retain them better while engaged in activities that are meaningful and enjoyable to them--play.**
- **Learning Objectives can be carefully structured to take place**

**within the "medium" of play in order to help children learn better.**

Latest brain development research shows that children learn things faster and retain them better while engaged in activities that are meaningful and enjoyable to them--play.

- **Carefully structuring learning through play helps get children ready for more than kindergarten—it helps them get ready for life!**



# Learn-At-Play®

**Learn-At-Play®** is a carefully structured system of lesson planning which ensures that the learning objectives planned for each week are presented in



a way that the children enjoy. Since

their enjoyment of lesson content so dramatically increases their retention of it, we consider this principle to be non-negotiable! Carefully

developed over more than three decades of hands on experience



and commitment to child development and care, **Learn-At-Play®** enhances and adds value to each learning strategy, activity and event that it governs.



## Frog Street Press®

The learning strategies presented in Frog Street Press materials are based on documented research of early literacy that emerges as children begin to recognize letters, manipulate individual and combinations of letters plus segmenting sounds with letters to spell words. The importance and effectiveness of phonics instruction, developing language abilities, and independent writing has proven itself year after year.

Small group instruction is more effective because children benefit from listening to classmates responding and feedback from the teacher. Along with phonics instruction, young children should be solidifying their knowledge of the alphabet, engaging in phonemic awareness activities, and listening to stories read aloud to them. They also should be reading texts (both out loud and silently). Letter formation, writing words, messages and stories provide children with ample opportunities to practice the relationships they are learning.

Fluency develops over time and substantial practice. Easy to sing melodies, repetitive text and supporting illustrations promote word recognition and comprehension for a variety of ability levels. Students become more fluent readers with modeling as part of their learning process. Big books reinforce book handling skills, introduce new vocabulary,

and promote "book talk" between teacher and students. Children learn new concepts as teachers track letters, words and other features of print.

Comprehension skills are also enriched and memory skills strengthened as children sing and recall story information through song, rhythm and rhyme.



Vocabulary plays a vital role in early literacy with most children learning the meanings of most words indirectly,

through everyday experiences with oral and written language. The more oral language experiences children have, the more word meanings they learn. Conversations about books help children to learn new words and concepts and to relate them to their prior knowledge and experience.

Using their experiences and knowledge of the world, children gain practice and confidence when engaging in literacy centers, guided reading and shared reading, independent or group reading experiences. Successful students have built a strong foundation in language and literacy which helps create successful readers and writers.

# Summary

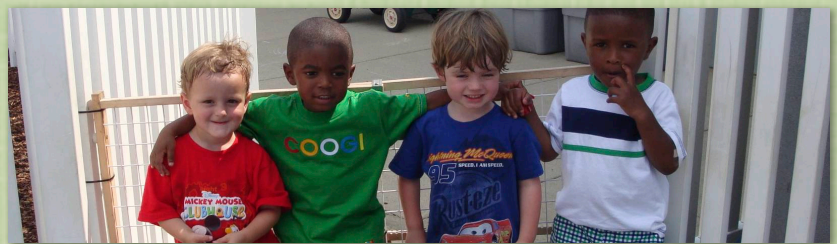
Through careful selection of some of the most excellent curriculum tools available and the application of the latest brain development research accomplished by Learn-At-Play®, we do more than help your children get ready for kindergarten—we help them get ready for life!

## Saxon Math®

Saxon Math is the only major math program on the market today that systematically distributes instruction, practice, and assessment throughout the academic year as opposed to concentrating, or massing, related concepts into a short period of time—usually within a unit or chapter. Saxon Math's unique approach to math instruction ensures that students not only gain but also retain essential math skills.

## Success by 6®

Success By 6® is an early childhood development initiative dedicated to providing all children with a good start in life. It helps to ensure that children ages 0 to 6 develop the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical skills they need as they enter school. By 6 builds and enhances community through engaging citizens in early childhood



development, and funding programs that strengthen services for young children and their families. Funded programs include literacy, nutrition, children's play, parenting and family skills development.

Prevention-focused, research-informed and community-based, Success By 6 envisions a community where all children are valued, respected, nurtured, loved and given the opportunity to develop to their full potential as creative, caring, competent and responsible adults.



## Handwriting Without Tears®

The Handwriting Without Tears® program (HWT) is an award-winning handwriting curriculum that has helped millions of children develop school readiness skills and succeed in handwriting. They are:

Widely recognized by educators for superior teaching strategies and materials

Adopted by thousands of schools and school districts throughout the U.S. and Canada

Accessible to, recommended by, and easy for parents to use

The #1 choice of occupational therapists and educators who are asked to facilitate handwriting remediation

Children and teachers succeed with the Handwriting Without Tears program. Here's why:

Letter and Number style is developmentally appropriate and easy to read. Unique workbook features make handwriting easy to teach and learn.

Multisensory teaching strategies appeal to all learning styles.

HWT enables children to write with ease and confidence, express their thoughts on paper, and finish their work.

The result? Better test scores and improved academic performance!

