



From the Desk of Cynthia Maher, M.Ed.

September 8, 2015

To the Parents of Bedford Child Development Center,

Welcome back to the beginning of another school year. As the new school year begins, I wanted to take this opportunity to inform all of our parents what your child will be learning throughout this school year.

Our center prepares children for kindergarten through active learning and hands-on experiences. The curriculum we use at the center is Creative Curriculum which is based on past and current theory and research in the field of early childhood development. According to research “children learn best by doing and learning requires actively thinking and experimenting to find out how things work and to learn firsthand about the world we live in.

WHAT CHILDREN LEARN

Children learn in the content areas of literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts and technology. Each content area is broken down into specifics including objectives and strategies for teachers to accommodate children’s learning. The center currently ordered mini posters to be sent home with each family which lists and explains the objectives focused on during certain activities throughout our learning day. We have also ordered parent literature which can be checked out like a library book that enables families to take home a book further explaining our curriculum. We follow the curriculum which is called The Creative Curriculum in not only the preschool classrooms, but in our infant and toddler programs as well. Once we receive the books, we will inform parents and you may check out a book for a two-week period to be then returned to the office.

We understand that parents do not always see what we are teaching and how their child is learning during pick up and drop off time periods. During drop off and pick up times there are distractions of parents coming and going and therefore we have designed the learning portion of our day to commence at 8:30 a.m. each morning and lasts until approximately 4:00 p.m. During our school day your child has the opportunity to learn in the following areas:

Literacy: Children learn vocabulary and language skills, phonological awareness, knowledge of print, letters and words, comprehension, books and other texts.

Mathematics: Children learn number and operations, geometry and spatial sense, measurement, patterns (algebra), and data analysis.

Science: Children learn physical and life sciences as well as about the Earth and the environment.

Social Studies: Focuses on history, geography, economics and civics. The children learn about these standards of social studies by learning and understanding people and how they live, people and the environment, people and the past and spaces and geography.

The Arts: Art involves children's ability to design, create, and explore. Children mix paints, pound on clay, build structures with blocks, boxes and LEGO pieces; dance, dramatize stories, clap rhythms and sing chants and songs (Trister Dodge et al.). There are four components of the arts – dance, music, theater or performing arts (which we call dramatic play) and visual arts.

Technology: Technology involves the tools, machines, materials, techniques and sources of power that make work easier and solve problems. The four components of technology is a child's awareness of technology, basic operations and concepts, tools and equipment and people and technology.

Some important features of the curriculum is the use of natural items in the physical environment, the opportunity for open-ended activities throughout the day, and children learning through direct exploration and experience. Incorporating items children normally see in their homes into the physical environment of the classroom and allowing children to manipulate these materials and equipment helps them learn. The curriculum addresses all four developmental domains of social-emotional, physical, cognitive and language and is aligned with state and national standards and guidelines. This curriculum has also been approved by the State of Michigan's Department of Education for children through the kindergarten years and some kindergarten classes have even started to incorporate this curriculum into their classrooms.

Bedford Child Development Center feels that a child learns more when the curriculum and the environment is child-initiated and teacher supported. In order for a child to learn, a child needs to be in a safe and nurturing environment which allows the child to feel more at ease and explore those novel surroundings which we offer. As teachers, we provide guidance and offer assistance and ask questions to spark a child's thinking and imagination. We always make sure that through experiences offered at BCDC we are encouraging the children in our care to learn while at the same time be prepared for kindergarten.

Through the teachers' interactions, observations and conversations with your child in the classroom, the teachers are able to understand your individual child's interests, growth and overall development.

If you want more information about the benefits of our curriculum, please feel free to stop in at the office and speak to myself, Pauline or to Kim or you can always email me your questions to bedfordchildcare@hotmail.com.

Thanks for your continued patronage to Bedford Child Development Center and Let's Have a Great Year of Learning!