

Loyal's
4 - Year - Old
Kindergarten
Program



Daily Schedule for 4K

8:15 am - 8:55 am	⇒	Free-Choice Play
8:55 am – 9:00 am	⇒	Clean – Up
8:00 am – 9:20 am	⇒	Group Time
9:20 am – 9:25 am	⇒	Bathroom Break
9:25 am – 10:00 am	⇒	Learning Centers
10:00 am – 10:20 am	⇒	Bathroom Break and Snack
10:20 am – 10:50 am	⇒	Recess
10:50 am – 11:20 am	⇒	Early Literacy and Math Activities
11:20 am – 11:35 am	⇒	Library or Gym
11:35 am – 11:40 am	⇒	Music and Movement
11:40 am – 12:00 pm	⇒	Group Time
12:00 pm – 12:05 am	⇒	Bathroom Break
12:05 am – 12:35 pm	⇒	Lunch
12:35 pm – 12:40 pm	⇒	Bathroom Break
12:40 pm – 1:25 pm	⇒	Rest Time
1:25 pm – 2:05 pm	⇒	Learning Centers
2:05 pm – 2:15 pm	⇒	Journal Buddies
2:15 pm – 2:35 pm	⇒	Project
2:35 pm – 2:45 pm	⇒	Bathroom Break
2:45 pm – 3:10 pm	⇒	Recess

** These times are tentative and may change slightly depending on the activities for the day!

Philosophy

We believe that when planning an early childhood curriculum, it is important to understand that children learn best by doing; that's why to a child, playing is learning. Through play children explore their world, find out how to get along with others, test their skills and muscles, try out new ideas and feel competent enough to try different activities.

We believe that the basis for learning in a classroom is first hand experience. Our staff will provide concrete and challenging activities that will help children construct their own knowledge. Since not all children learn in the same way, these experiences will encompass many different learning styles. We believe it is our job to get to know all of our students on an individual level and plan activities which will interest and challenge all of them.

To help children develop a positive self-esteem, we will establish an environment where there is mutual respect for everyone's opinion. Responsive language will convey a positive regard for children and an acceptance of their individual ideas and feelings. Requests and commands will be expressed in a nurturing way and explanations will be provided so children understand why they can or can't do something. Efforts towards mutual respect will be encouraged not only between the teacher and children, but also within the group of children. When courtesy and respect are understood and accepted in our classroom, children will be more likely to develop the confidence which allows them to learn.

We believe that children learn the best through their own motivation. Our staff will constantly be promoting self-direction in learning. This will be done by providing children with choices that offer opportunities for experiencing and understanding through manipulation, play, and exploration at each child's individual rate. Learning is not a simple process. Children must explore new information through hands-on experiences in order to understand it. Our four-year-old kindergarten program will emphasize learning the process of a skill instead of focusing on a specific product.

We firmly believe that a strong home-school link is important to the development of each child. Our staff will set the stage for communication with parents through monthly newsletters, daily journals, home visits and parent-teacher conferences. It is important to get parents enthusiastic about school and involved in their child's learning. Our classroom will have an open-door policy in which parents are encouraged to observe and/or volunteer with class activities. We feel that parents are a child's first teacher and usually have the most influence over a child's development. Our program will work towards establishing a partnership with parents that has the common goal of providing a safe, stimulating environment for each child to individually grow and develop.

Curriculum

Our four-year-old kindergarten curriculum adopts self-directed learning as its main objective. We feel that the most effective learning grows out of a child's own motivation. In order to make our curriculum effective we will provide children with choices. The children will be offered opportunities for experiencing and understanding through free-choice time, small group center activities, individualized Math and Literacy time, and whole group participation.

To a young child, curriculum is experiencing! Our program has been designed to enrich children's learning through hands-on experiences. These experiences will offer children the opportunity to grow and develop at their own rate. Our program will provide a safe, nurturing environment where children will learn about themselves and the world around them. We are concerned with helping each child develop the self-esteem and confidence needed to reach his/her full potential.

1.) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We feel that language is the basis for communication and communication is the basis for socialization. Our program will offer many opportunities to enhance language development. Through our curriculum, children will learn how to get along with others, share ideas, take turns, cope with success and failure, enter into groups, and practice cooperation.

2.) EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children will learn to understand their emotions as they develop friendships, resolve conflicts, follow directions and learn to get along in a group setting. Our program will help young children realize that they are in control of their own behavior.

3.) INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

Our program involves the children in age appropriate experiences to enhance discovery, problem solving, communication, conceptualization, and creativity. Activities will be planned in accordance with needs and abilities of the children in each class. Our curriculum includes kindergarten readiness skills, such as, colors, shapes, numbers, counting, number values, letters, letter sounds and rhyming.

4.) PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

We have a planned program of movement exploration for body coordination and self-esteem building. As children experiment with what their bodies are capable of doing, they begin to feel physically confident. Experiences that emphasize physical activity, allow children to take risks within safe limits and to practice exercising common-sense control.

5.) CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

As our children have the freedom to discover and explore, their creative minds are at work. The creativity that comes with exploring play, drama, role playing, and art media will allow children to become better problem solvers and feel confident about their own abilities.

Our curriculum includes the areas of math, science, music, art, social studies, motor perception, and language arts through an integrated theme approach. This means that all of the subjects mentioned above will be taught through the exploration of a centralized weekly theme. Monthly newsletters will be sent home to inform parents of these themes and to encourage family involvement. It is important to remember that it is the enriched environment that sets the basis for later learning, not the mastery of skills or concepts. Children master skills and concepts at their own paces, just like adults. An environment rich with opportunities to experience many curricular areas enhances the development of confidence, which allows children to learn.

Materials Your Child Needs for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten

- Folder (this will be the main source of communication between school and home)
- Tablet (for journal buddy to write in)
- Book Bag (make sure that it is big enough to hold the folder and tablet, and that your child can open it by himself/herself)
- A Change of Clothes to Leave at School
- One Box of Kleenex
- One Container of Disinfectant Wipes or One Roll
- Sleeping Mat
- A Box of Crayons
- 2 Glue Sticks

****Additional Materials That Can Be Donated for Classroom Art Projects, Science Experiments, Dramatic Play, Etc. (These materials can be brought in at anytime) – Thanks!**

- Empty Film Canisters
- Buttons
- Ice Cream Pails and Covers
- Sequence, Beads, or Other Craft Materials
- Styrofoam Packing Peanuts (Biodegradable Kind)
- Shaving Cream
- Plastic Strawberry containers
- Yogurt Containers
- Old Telephones, Cellular Phones
- Brown Paper Bags
- Clothes Pins
- Costume Jewelry
- Vests
- Dress-up Hats
- Cotton Balls
- Baby Wipes
- Ziplock Bags
- Anything else you think will promote creative exploration