

The themes we will be highlighting this month are ...

**Infants A & B – Dreamers ~ Theme: Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall**

Our babies will have the opportunity to distinguish themselves from others during play as they explore their surroundings and solve simple problems. Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star ☆ will surround them while they focus on key experiences that support learning.

Research shows that positive sensory experiences and social interactions advance cognitive abilities. As they play, they learn!

**Jr. Toddlers – Travelers ~ Theme: All About Me**

Our toddlers will imitate and pretend, explore building, experiment with art materials, and of course, participate in key communication skills using give and take. Our toddlers will be provided with magazines and teacher-made books so they can practice the skill of “page turning,” all while talking about the illustrations and photographs found inside.

**Sr. Toddlers – Adventurers ~ Theme: I Think I Can**

August brings our little ones a great deal of excitement as they grow and learn new skills. Success breeds success, and our toddlers will definitely have opportunities to feel invincible and confident. Children will discuss roles at home and explore different activities that take place with their family members.

**3s – Discoverers ~ Theme: Now We Are Three**

Teachers continue to get the children accustomed to the daily routine, work time, and recall while enhancing self-esteem. Communicating to the children about meaningful experiences while having fun with language, reading and writing helps support overall early learning and development. We will continue working around a theme each month which will undoubtedly delight your child. Mary Had a Little Lamb, is the joyous rhyme of the month, and is beloved by all. We are so happy to share it with your child!

**4s – Voyagers ~ Theme: Open The Door**

Children will have the opportunity to craft Language and Literacy (All About Me) books. Beside this activity, children will make self-portraits while self-reflecting and learning about their peers. During clean-up time, children will continue to focus on number and color while trying to classify two attributes. Pattern songs, symbol rubbings, and graphing eye color and favorite foods will all be included in the topics that we explore this month.

**Kindergarten Days ~ Theme: Welcome New Friends**

Welcome to Kindergarten! If your program offers a private Kindergarten classroom we heartily welcome you and your family. Our classroom will awaken your child's journey into learning by exposing them to new ideas, concepts, tools and information. Your child will be bolstered as they begin to gain first-hand knowledge. Sound principles and functions related to each lesson will support learning at all levels. Children will recognize the opportunity to reinforce what they learn through critical thinking, discovery and self-regulation opportunities.





## ~ Let's Play ~

Through play, children learn about themselves, their environment, people, and the world around them. As they play, children learn to solve problems and to get along with others. Play enhances creativity and helps develop healthy personalities and the skills children need to learn to read and write.

Play in early childhood is the best foundation for success in school.

Play is also FUN. Let's play.

**Birth ~ 12 Months** ~ As infants enter the second month of life, they become noticeably more interested in the world around them. While they don't play in the way we often think—stacking blocks or feeding a baby doll—they are eager to explore the objects and interact with the people they see every day. At this age, play is about back-and-forth interactions—anything from singing songs to infants as you change their diapers, to cooing and smiling back and forth with them. Loving and playful experiences like these help infants learn.

**1 ~ 2 Years** ~ Because they are now aware of the function of objects, toddlers like to stack blocks, listen or talk into a toy phone, or push a toy car. In addition, the concept of pretend play starts. Toddlers may pretend to drink from an empty cup, use a banana as a phone, or imagine a block is a car.

**2 ~ 3 Years** ~ Two-year-olds begin to use their imaginations as they play. They use objects in a variety of ways as they engage in pretend play. Simple activities such as feeding a baby doll, roaring like a lion, or cooking a meal are all part of stretching their imaginations. Creativity begins to develop as children act out their thoughts while they play.

**3 ~ 4 Years** ~ Pretend play becomes more complex and interactive for three-year-olds. It's no accident that Legacy classrooms have plenty of props (plastic tools, kitchen gear, blocks, dress-up clothes, etc.) for imaginative pretend play. When they engage in pretend play, these children have the freedom to explore, at their own pace, their world. They learn to negotiate, solve problems, and develop empathy.

**4 ~ 5 Years** ~ Children this age can engage in long periods of active play and exercise. They are skillful at walking, climbing, jumping, hopping, skipping, marching, and galloping. They also are better able to throw, catch, kick, and bounce balls. Advances in hand-eye coordination help four-year-olds do puzzles and play with toys that have small parts. Their dramatic play is highly imaginative and now has the structure of specific scenarios, like going to the grocery store or rescuing a cat stuck in a tree.

## When They Play, They Learn!

What are some things children learn in the process of play?

### When Children...

Smile and coo at people

Shake rattles

Throw toys on the floor

Look at picture books

Roll balls

Cuddle stuffed animals

Build with blocks

Dress up and play house

Pretend to be firefighters



### They Learn...

How to engage others in interaction

Their actions produce results; to distinguish sounds

Principles of gravity; cause and effect

Pictures represent real objects; words label objects

How to gain control of muscles; to roll things around

To rely on their own abilities to seek comfort; to nurture

Concepts of size, weight, symmetry, number and balance; muscle control and coordination

Self-help skills; to recreate their own world

Social roles; to work with others; share materials and communicate with other children.

Fingerplays are simple, rhythmic activities that children enjoy. Try the following with your child:



### The Little Turtle

There was a little turtle (make a fist like a turtle) that lived in a box. (draw a square in the air) It swam through the puddles (swimming motions) and climbed on the rocks. (climbing motions)

It snapped at a mosquito. (snap your fingers). It snapped at a flea. (snap your fingers)

It snapped at a minnow (snap your fingers) and it snapped at me. (snap towards yourself)

It caught the mosquito. (tickle your child) It caught the flea. (tickle again)

It caught the minnow. (tickle again) But it didn't catch me. (point at self, shake head no)