

Curriculum:

Children learn many skills everyday through child-initiated play and the planned activities in the curriculum at Teddy Bear Learning Center. The curriculum at Teddy Bear Learning Center incorporates the philosophy of The Creative Curriculum by Teaching Strategies, the Indiana Foundations and a themed lesson plan approach. The lesson plans are created from observations, assessments, developmental needs, cultural awareness of the community and the values, beliefs and experiences of the families served in the classroom. Individual needs and interest of the children of the classroom are incorporated into the lesson plans.

Providing activities and experiences that develop and build social skills are both planned and naturally occurring in the classroom. Working with families to ease their child's transition from preschool to elementary school. It is the intention of Teddy Bear Learning Center to provide a comforting environment for them to make friends, the teacher places them purposefully in groups to learn to interact with other children from other cultures, economic backgrounds and with disabilities. The environment is meant to represent a family type atmosphere within the classroom group. Representation of families in the community and of the children in the classroom are represented through pictures, books, written language, foods, and encouraged family involvement.

Every classroom has a variety of materials for the children to use on their own and with a group of children. Materials are rotated and added to the classroom to engage the children and to enhance the learning atmosphere, adding interest to the environment. The classroom environment offers both structured and unstructured child selected creative activities that are developmentally appropriate for the age group that is served. This is a typical example of a child-initiated activity that takes place daily. When a child begins to build with the blocks, another child may come over and see that they need cars, then a child brings in the linking chains because bridges have chains, then they find people to cross the bridge, then they find the unit cubes to make small towers and add color, here comes the fire trucks because there is a fire, then the dinosaur arrives to demolish the bridge! Now the teacher comes over to quiet the tears, the frustrated friends and to help in using words to talk through the issue of everything falling apart. The amount of time, imagination, math, science, fine motor skills, and social interaction in one activity is huge. It is as if a corporate project took place in 30 minutes. The children do this in the housekeeping area, sensory tables, outside play, there is not a limit to their opportunities to use their minds.

This type of learning takes place several times, every day. The children at Teddy Bear Learning Center are introduced to a variety of music, literacy experiences and creative materials. Books and materials to encourage writing are included in all areas of learning. Sometimes during their play, a teacher may want to show them the 'easy way' to do something. We try not to, but to stand back and watch their problem-solving skills go into action. It is a gift to be able to watch them work and learn to be a team player

with their friends. This is a time when the teacher observes and documents the activities of the children for use in future lesson plans and assessments.

Lesson plans reflect the previous observation of a child or children that has been aligned with an Indiana Foundation Standard to scaffold a child's learning experience by building a structure for continued growth.

Educational themes are planned throughout the year focusing on nutrition, health, safety, ecofriendly environments and cultures. Introducing to the children healthy eating habits, introduction of new foods, healthy ways to care for themselves regarding germs, oral health, hygiene and physical activity. The teachers role model safe practices in the environment and provide learning activities that create awareness and experiences for the child. The planned curriculum teaches ways to promote a eco-healthy environment by washing fruits and vegetables before eating, recycling in the classroom, using nontoxic art materials.

Parent Signature: _____

Child's Name: _____

Date: _____