



## Luray United Methodist Preschool

### Four Year Old Readiness Skills:

The Luray United Methodist Preschool curriculum is based on:

- Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning and their standards for four year olds  
([www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early\\_childhood/preschool\\_initiative/foundation](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early_childhood/preschool_initiative/foundation))
- The belief that a child learns best when he/she is active and having fun
- Christian principles, with love being the most important

Our goal is to prepare your child with the math and language arts readiness skills needed to successfully begin kindergarten. We will also teach your child other important lessons as we read child adapted Bible stories to them. They will practice skills such as sharing, getting along with others, listening, following directions, loving others and being responsible.

### Oral Language skills

Children gain language and vocabulary skills by having frequent opportunities to talk and listen to adults and peers. As children learn more about the world around them, it is easier for them to learn how to express this new information and these new ideas and to communicate this knowledge through vocabulary. Children will participate in a wide variety of active, sensory experiences to build vocabulary.

### Sample activities to stimulate the development of oral language skills:

- Listen to a variety of literary selections daily. Have discussions with others about the selections read.
- Re-enact stories through dramatic play, flannel board pieces, puppets etc,
- Participate in a variety of oral language activities including: choral and echo reading, recitation of short poems, rhymes, songs and stories with repeated word order patterns, sharing with one another
- Participate in creative dramatics.

### Pre-Reading Skills

Letter knowledge is an essential component to beginning reading and writing. The letters will be taught in a random order throughout the school year. Children will engage in skills

that will help them understand that spoken words consist of sounds. They will be involved in activities that promote an ability to hear and manipulate these sounds in words.

**Pre-reading skills we will introduce:**

- All uppercase/lowercase letters
- Correct letter formation of uppercase/lower case letters
- All letter sounds
- Parts of a book
- Listening skills

**Sample activities to stimulate the development of alphabet skills:**

- Children will make a variety of crafts, and be involved with hands on-activities as he/she learns a letter. Examples include, as the letter Aa is introduced they will sing songs which teach the Aa sound as they make applesauce. Another day they will make construction paper alligators and sing alligator songs and poems. They will make an Aa using playdough or pipe cleaners.
- Practice of correct letter formation using different substances such as: finger paints, pudding, sand-salt trays, chalk etc. to "write" the letters.
- Songs, poems and finger plays will be sung which will review the different letters and sounds.

**Math Skills**

When teaching math we will build on the natural characteristics of young children, and challenge them to explore the concepts of number, pattern, shape, space, and classification.

**Math skills we will introduce:**

- Patterning (ABAB)
- Sorting by attributes (color, shape, size etc)
- Number sense which includes:
  - Identification of numbers 1-10
  - Writing numbers 1-10
  - Counting objects
- Counting skills (forward 1-20 and backwards 10-1)
- Identification of 4 basic shapes (circle, triangle, square, rectangle)
- Gathering information from different types of graphs
- Identify 8 basic colors (red, orange, yellow, blue, green, purple, black and brown)
- Increase cognitive skills by putting puzzles together

We will do periodic, informal assessments throughout the year on letters and numbers to see how your child is progressing and we will relay this information back to you.

We believe a child learns best when he/she has the involvement of the teacher and parent or care-giver. Please spend a little time each week reviewing with your child what he/she

has learned in preschool. This shouldn't take a long time and should be fun. We will give ideas throughout the year to help with this.

**We are excited to be involved with both you and your child in this adventure of learning! Thanks for choosing our preschool!**

