

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Early Childhood Education

EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Early Childhood program at Center Cass District 66 is a self contained special education program for students ages 3 through 5. This means that each child has his or her own Individualized Educational Plan or IEP. What we do in the classroom is driven first and foremost by each child's individual goals. Each child learns at his or her own rate. Our goal is that over the course of a child's years here in Early Childhood he or she will be exposed to all of the skills and concepts below and will have mastered them to the best of his or her ability.



School Skills:

In Early Childhood Each Child will have the opportunity to...

- Learn to use school tools such as crayons, markers, pencils or scissors.
- Develop the attending skills necessary to participate in school activities of an age appropriate length.
- Learn to follow all classroom rules.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Read with understanding and fluency. (State Goal 1).

In Early Childhood Each Child will have the opportunity to...

- Use oral language to share a personal experience or retell a story.
- Answer simple questions about a story.
- Handle a book appropriately and turn the pages.
- Demonstrate understanding by matching objects to pictures.
- Describe common objects in general language (name, color, use)
- Demonstrate knowledge of spatial and relational concepts (up, down, before, after) through physical experiences, pictures and objects.
- Arrange picture cards in a three step sequence.
- Develop pre-reading skills by participating in songs, poems and finger plays.
- Identify the letters of the alphabet.

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MATHEMATICS

Demonstrate and apply a knowledge and sense of numbers, including numeration and operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division), patterns, ratios and proportions. (State Goal 6).

In Early Childhood each child will have the opportunity to...

- Rote count by 1's to 20.
- Demonstrate knowledge of 1:1 correspondence.
- Demonstrate knowledge of quantity concepts (one, all, some, one more)
- Identify the numerals 1 through 10.
- Match a numeral to the correct set of objects.
- Identify which group has more, less or the same number of objects.
- Identify the position of objects that are first and last.
- Sort and classify objects by one attribute (size, shape, color).
- Name and draw simple two dimensional shapes.
- Use non-standard units such as snap cubes to measure length.
- Understand the meaning of heavier and lighter, empty and full, more and less.
- Recognize, duplicate and extend simple patterns.
- Participate in basic graphing activities.



SCIENCE

Understand the processes of scientific inquiry and technological design to investigate questions, conduct experiments and solve problems. (State Goal 11).

Each Early Childhood Student will have the opportunity to...

- Learn about the five senses.
- Investigate how people use their senses to learn about things around them.
- Use scientific equipment such as magnets, magnifying glasses and balancing scales for investigation.
- Observe and describe similarities and differences among objects through sorting by size shape and color and texture.
- Use common weather related vocabulary (rainy, snowy, sunny, windy).
- Identify basic concepts of day/night and seasons.

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SOCIAL STUDIES

Understand political systems, with an emphasis on the United States. (State Goal 14).

In Early Childhood each child will have the opportunity to...

- Recognize rules and the reasons why they are important.
- Participate in voting as a way to make choices as a group.
- Identify community helpers and the jobs that they do.
- Learn that each of us have similarities and differences.
- See themselves as part of a whole (family, class or school).



ART

Know the language of the arts. (State Goal 25).

In Early Childhood each child will have the opportunity to...

- Participate in a variety of sensory activities.
- Be encouraged to express themselves creatively.

MUSIC

Know the language of the arts. (State Goal 25).

In Early Childhood each child will have the opportunity to...

- Participate in a variety of songs, chants and finger plays.
- Explore rhythm instruments.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

STATE GOAL 31:

Develop an awareness of personal identity and positive self-concept.

In Early Childhood each child will be encouraged to...

- Describe self by using basic characteristics.
- Exhibit persistence and creativity in seeking solutions to problems.
- Display initiative and independence.
- Use appropriate communication skills when expressing wants, needs and feelings.
- Show empathy and caring for others.
- Engage in cooperative play.
- Begin to share materials and take turns.
- Develop relationships with children and adults.