

Concepts to Explore with Fours

Front Street Playschool uses these concepts to explore with four year olds as an overview and “window” into our classrooms. Exposure to these concepts is the goal, not mastery. Some children will be interested in more advanced concepts. We will encourage them and provide opportunities for them to explore their interests.

Cognitive:

- Recognizing first and last name
- Naming colors
- Matching and sorting by color
- Recognizing and naming shapes
- Arranging several objects by size
- Counting by rote to 30 or higher.
- Counting with one to one correspondence to 20 or more
- Matching and pairing like objects
- Putting several events in sequence
- Understanding opposites
- Memorizing short songs and poems
- Listening to a story and being able to retell the story and answer questions about it
- Rhyming words
- Recognizing and naming letters
- Recognizing and naming numbers
- Awareness of beginning letter sounds (baby and blanket both make the “b” sound)
- Recognizing right and left
- Knowing address
- Knowing phone number
- Recognizing fiction and nonfiction texts
- Exposure to nonfiction text structure (real photographs, captions, gives information, table of contents)
- Exposure to fiction text structure (drawings, tells a story, beginning and end)
- Exploring the five senses through sensory bins, science, etc.
- Learning Concepts of Print- front and back of the book, title, spine, periods, question marks, title page, where the story begins, print goes left to right, etc.
- Exploring basic science concepts and participating in class experiments
- Building with blocks and incorporating imagination and engineering

Fine and Gross Motor:

- Tracing or copying various types of lines
- Using scissors and cutting on lines
- Tracing or copying letters and numbers
- Name writing
- Copying shapes
- Opportunities to write
- Drawing a person with a body and a face with eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and hair
- Directed drawing with instructions
- Using glue properly
- Making playdough structures
- Lacing and stringing beads
- Walking backward, running, throwing, and climbing
- Hopping on one foot
- Skipping

Language:

- Exposure to calendar skills (seasons, days of the week, months of the year, weekends/weekdays, how many days are in a week, and holidays)
- Weather concepts (hot, cold, sun, rain, snow, lightning, etc)
- Using words for conflict resolution
- Naming articles of clothing and knowing seasonal clothing
- Naming parts of the face and body, including chin, knees, elbows, wrist, shoulder, neck, ankle, eyes, eyebrows, lips, etc.)
- Understanding & demonstrating directional words
- Communicating clearly with teachers and classmates
- Ability to use words to communicate needs
- Ability to have conversation with teachers and classmates
- Learning environmental print
- Participates in thematic songs and poems

Independence and Self Care

- Can enter the room, “check-in”, and follow step-by-step directions independently
- Following classroom routines and directions, including centers and whole group
- Taking care of personal needs independently
- Ability to take off and put on backpack, coat, and shoes
- Drinking from a cup with no lid
- Throwing snack trash away
- Washing hands independently at appropriate times
- Ability to change to different activities

Social and Emotional

- Knowing the names of classmates
- Using good manners- please and thank you
- Being able to move from center to center and easily transition
- Using kind words when you would like a turn or need something
- Following directions given by the teachers
- Clean up toys and other materials and put objects away appropriately
- Ability to increase waiting time
- Practice self control and problem solving skills
- Ability to participate in group discussions during whole group (ask questions, answer questions, and discuss)
- Ability to work and play with classmates during centers and small groups
- Demonstrates the ability to take turns with classmates
- Being able to greet, take turns, and have conversations with classmates at the appropriate times