

Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool Plays with a Purpose

Child development specialists know the importance of play, because children discover and learn about their world through play. Play promotes the total development of the child. It enhances a child's self-esteem, because he/she can succeed in play. When children are playing in the following areas at Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool, they are forming a solid foundation for a life of learning.



When I paint I learn:

- to develop my imagination and creativity.
- hand-eye coordination.
- to distinguish and purposely create shapes.
- to express my feelings and ideas.
- that my ideas have value.
- concepts of shape, size, color, and location.
- concepts of symmetry, balance, and design.
- about how colors mix to make new colors (science).

When I play with blocks, cars, and trucks I learn:

- concepts of shape, size, length and location (reading and math skills).
- to create and repeat patterns.
- to exercise my imagination.
- to express ideas.
- to cooperate with others.
- to solve problems.
- about the properties of wood.



When I look at books and listen to stories I learn:

- that learning to read is important and enjoyable.
- that letters on a page represent words.
- to express my own thoughts, feelings and ideas better.
- to exercise my imagination.
- to interpret pictures to represent words and ideas.
- to listen well to spoken language.
- to make up my own stories.
- to handle books with care.
- to recognize certain words when I see them in print.
- to use more complex language patterns in my own speech.
- to follow the development of thoughts and ideas in the plot of a story.

When I do a cooking project I learn:

- about nutrition, tastes and food groups.
- how heat and cold change things.
- concepts of volume and measure.
- new vocabulary.
- whole-part relationships (math)
- awareness of my own and other cultures.



When I play on playground equipment or with a ball I learn:

- strength, balance and coordination.
- to use my energy in a constructive way.
- to use my imagination.
- concepts of speed, direction and location.
- to cooperate with others when involved in a group.
- to solve problems.
- self-confidence as I learn new skills.



When I play in the housekeeping corner I learn:

- to be flexible in my thinking and to make decisions.
- to express myself with words.
- to try on different adult roles.
- to sort and organize play things.
- to solve social problems through negotiation with friends.
- to exercise my imagination and creativity.
- to carry out my ideas with the cooperation of others.
- to improvise and use things in a symbolic way to



When I play with playdough I learn:

- to see the shape against the background of the table (a reading skill).
- concepts of shape, size, length and height.
- to see negative space when cookie cutters shapes are taken away.
- to express feelings with squeezing and pounding.
- to exercise my imagination and creativity.
- that the amount of a substance remains the same, even when the

When I participate in circle time activities I learn:

- to listen, sit still and understand spoken words.
- the names of others in the group.
- to wait when others are talking.
- new vocabulary words.
- to remember the words of songs and poems.
- that my ideas added to the discussion have value.
- to cooperate and be considerate of the needs of others.
- to help plan what we will do and what we will need to do it.



When I sing songs and play instruments I learn:

- principles of music and rhythm.
- concepts of fast, slow, loud and soft.
- memory skills and sequencing.
- to express myself in new and different ways.
- listening skills.
- auditory discrimination (recognizing differences in sounds – necessary for learning to read).
- to interpret and understand signals and cues.
- awareness and identification with my culture and other cultures.



When I play with sand or water I learn:

- to exercise my imagination.
- concepts of size, shape, volume, empty and full.
- how to use tools.
- to solve problems.
- concepts of warm, cool, wet, damp, dry, heavy and light.

