

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



CENTER FOR THE DEAF

LEXINGTON



Universal Pre-Kindergarten Schedule

In the beginning, while teachers are dealing with separation issues, the children will spend their time getting used to the classroom, the other children and the basic rules that they need to learn in order for them to become part of a “group”. Since it will be a first school experience for most of the children, it is better to have them follow a basic plan each day. Although we want teachers to have the flexibility and spontaneity to go with the moods and desires of the children in the class, a daily schedule of activities will be as follows. Most activities will at first be open ended with very broad themes while later, more specific units will be introduced.

9:00-9:15 am

- children are welcomed as they arrive and hang jackets in their own-labeled cubbies.
- teachers will spend a few minutes, planning the time spent in class and will sing a song or do a fingerplay to welcome the children as they get to know one another’s names.

9:15-10:00 am

- children are involved in free play in any one of 3-5 Centers in the classroom
art area-easel painting, play dough at table
block area-wood blocks, cars, people, other toys that relate to building
water and/or sand play
housekeeping –dress-up, kitchen, store, restaurant

manipulatives-pegs, puzzles, beads, pattern card, tangrams

10:00-10:10 am

- children will enjoy a “healthy” snack * with their friends. This can be done at first in a formal way, with children sitting at the table, while teachers model good manners, quiet conversation. Later on, snack can be more informal as children come over and help themselves if they are involved in play.

10:15-10:45 am

- children will come together for “circle time” where they will talk about the theme that the class is working on
- teacher will read stories, sing songs, finger plays related to ongoing themes
- can do an art activity that is related to theme

10:45-11:15 am

- outdoor play whenever weather permits-as long as it is not windy/cold, children will bundle up and spend this time outdoors. Time can be shortened if it becomes too cold
- there will be opportunities to use an indoor playroom instead of playground in the case of inclement weather.

11:15-11:30 am

- children will come together at the end of the allotted time to review the days activities, sing a “good-bye” song and say good-bye to their friends and teachers.

Again, this is a very basic plan that will be repeated for the afternoon class. The plan is one that I have used in the past, however, when a teacher is hired for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten classrooms, she will plan the classroom themes, following the curriculum set down by the Board of Education and both she and her assistant teacher will develop a daily schedule, using the philosophy of the Center as a guideline.

*Snacks will consist of a variety of healthy food choices e.g. milk or juice, crackers, fruits, vegetables, popcorn, cereals, cubed cheeses. There will also be ample opportunities for the children to do cooking activities and then enjoy the fruits of their labors for snack! I would also want to learn as much about the cultures of the children in the class and then encourage families to send in snacks that their children can share.

ER:lf