

VI. CURRICULUM

Many ideas and phrases in our curriculum and in our listing of Areas and Activities are taken directly from *The Creative Curriculum for Early Childhood* by Diane Trister Dodge. Our curriculum follows a thematic model. In addition, several other teaching materials and resources are incorporated in order to further enhance the classroom and to maintain a developmentally appropriate, natural learning environment.

Goals and Objectives:

All aspects of the child's developmental growth will be cultivated: socio-emotional, physical, and cognitive, keeping in mind that each child will develop at his/her own pace. Below are some of our goals and objectives for the children at Busy Beach.

★ Socio-emotional growth

- Positive Self Concept: Identifying self as a member of a specific family and cultural group; demonstrating confidence in growing abilities
- Positive outlook on life
- Pro-social/cooperative behavior: acceptance of responsibility for maintaining the classroom environment; sharing and taking turns; respecting the rights of others

★ Physical growth

- Enhance large muscle skills, using increasing control while walking, running, jumping, balancing, throwing, catching, and climbing
- Enhance small muscle skills, using increasing control while assembling puzzles, stringing beads, using scissors, coloring with crayons, markers, or paint brushes, zippering, buttoning, and using utensils
- Using all senses to increase physical capabilities

★ Cognitive

- Develop a positive attitude towards learning through discovery and risk-taking, as well as perseverance with a task after making a mistake
- Enhance learning skills by asking questions, exploration, and investigation of new materials
- Expand logical thinking through sorting and classifying common objects and identifying solutions to problems
- Acquiring new concepts
- Expanding verbal communication skills
- Acquiring beginning written communication skills

Monthly Thematic Units:

A monthly center wide theme will be followed by each classroom. Weekly developmental plans are created by the teachers and are reviewed by the Director prior to its implementation. Activity plans are posted in the classrooms for parent viewing. A different letter, color, number and shape is part of the theme curriculum and is focused on throughout the month. These themes may change from year to year depending on the children's interest. At the beginning of the school year an annual thematic unit will be circulated to the families so that they may know what their children are focusing on every month.

Areas & Activities:

Each area of play and each activity are designed to incorporate several objectives of learning. The children will play in the areas that interest them and learn the skills for which they are developmentally prepared. Throughout the year each child will then build upon the individual skills they have already acquired in that area.

Below is a list of some areas and activities with a small index of skills we expect most children to accumulate. Some children will pick them up faster than others. Our philosophy maintains that each child will grow at their own pace and no child will be forced to learn a skill for which they are not ready. The skills include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Block Area:**

- ✓ Problem-solving; understanding of concepts such as gravity, inclined planes and balance; perseverance; math and reading readiness skills; and creativity
- ✓ Independence, cooperation, pride in accomplishments, respect of materials
- ✓ Eye-hand coordination, small muscle ability, visual discrimination



- **Pretend Area:**

- ✓ Planning skills, problem-solving, language skills, classification, creativity, application of knowledge of situations
- ✓ Refine social skills, self-understanding, cooperation, positive self-image building

- **Table Toys/ Manipulatives:**

- ✓ Learn concepts of color, size, and shape; classify and sequence; number concepts; matching; and pairing skills
- ✓ Cooperation, self-discipline, perseverance in completion of a task, self-esteem
- ✓ Fine motor coordination, eye-hand coordination, visual discrimination, reading readiness

- **Arts & Crafts:**

- ✓ Creativity: cause and effect; recognition of colors, shapes, and textures; self expression; planning, organizing, and carrying out a task
- ✓ Enhance individuality, pride in accomplishments, expression of feelings
- ✓ Small motor skills, eye-hand coordination



- **Library:**

- ✓ Develop a love of books; foster creativity and imagination; cause and effect; sequence; vocabulary building; foundation for reading and writing
- ✓ Dealing with fears and difficulties as well as pleasurable life experiences; social skills; empathy; social roles and family relationships; self esteem.

- **Math/Science:**

- ✓ Encourage exploration of the world and develop an appreciation for their environment.
- ✓ Create opportunities to investigate living materials and objects. Provide opportunities to observe measure and make predications.
- ✓ Encourage problem solving through various activities. Gain awareness of addition and subtraction concepts and the comparing and contracting of groups.
- ✓ Develop the understanding and use of descriptive language such as more/less, big/little. over/under, etc. in its correct context

- **Computers:**

- ✓ Develop an appreciation of technical science and the use of computers.
- ✓ Enhance eye to hand coordination and small motor skills.
- ✓ Learning opportunities for literacy, math and science activities in various pre-school software applications designed to be "fun" and "engaging" to very young children.

Enhancement Programs:



KINDERDANCE PROGRAM

FREE to all participating groups is a weekly Kinderdance dance program taught throughout the year to our 2-5 year old children in two forms.

KINDERTOTS® AGE 2-3

Kindertots® is a pre-Kinderdance® and pre-Kindergym® program designed to develop **Gross Motor Skills, Movement Creativity, Physical Development, Body and Social Awareness** while learning numbers colors, shapes and songs.

KINDERDANCE® AGE 3-5

Kinderdance® is a planned developmental dance/movement and fitness program taught on 3 levels, teaching the basics of **Ballet, Tap, Acrobatics, Motor Skills, and Creative Dance** while blending educational concepts.

The only financial requirement involves the purchase of a gym uniform through Kinderdance. Children must be dressed in their gym uniform the day of the class. Ask your classroom teacher for an order form. An annual dance performance and presentation takes place in May. The event is located in the beautiful South Beach Theater. The children demonstrate their dance routines to the parents so they may see what their children have learned all year. Written progress reports are also provided during the Parent Teacher Conferences. To learn more about this program, you can visit <http://totclasses.com/Kinderdance-of-Staten-Island.html>



This school is a qualified provider of the licensed Music Together Preschool program making a commitment to include music as an essential part of its core curriculum.

MUSIC TOGETHER

Busy Beach Day Care is a licensed provider for the **Music Together program. FREE** to all Infant Toddlers (ages 3mths-2yrs) is our Music Together Pre-School program, a developmental music/movement program taught in two semesters (Fall & Spring). The program teaches the basics of playing music in combination with song and creative movement while supporting children's specific developmental domains. A strong family component is included in this program. Families receive a CD and song book each semester to use at home. To learn more about music together, you can visit <http://www.musictogether.com/WhatIsMTPreschool>

SPANISH CLASS

For a nominal fee, children are also able to enroll in **Spanish classes**. Classes meet once a week for half an hour and are available to the 2-5 year olds children. Classes are taught in a social setting through conversation, song, dance & arts and crafts. At least once a year the Spanish teacher will hold an open house to invite all parents to sit and in and view the class. Written progress reports are also provided during Parent-Teacher conferences. There is a separate one page application form to enroll in Spanish. Payments for this program are issued directly to the Spanish Instructor. For more information on this program you can contact the instructor directly and arrange to sit on a class. The instructor's contact information is listed on the Spanish application page or can be obtained by contacting the office.