

## **Daily Schedule**

### **30 minutes**    **Discovery Activities**

During discovery time children are free to choose their own activities from the following centers: math, block play, dramatic play, large motor, reading, listening, writing, computer, sensory, science, art, and manipulative (small motor). This is a time when children develop decision-making skills, problem-solving skills, and skills related to the specific center subject areas. This is also a time of significant interaction between peers and teachers. Teachers guide, support, and observe play to insure that objectives are met, and children learn more of the skills necessary to work and learn with others through modeling and application.

### **15 minutes**    **Large Group Activities**

During large group activities children learn how to attend and participate in a school setting. During this time some systematic instruction occurs as teachers develop the concepts of the projects we are working on. For instance, they may show pictures of an ant's body parts, or tell a story about children who find an anthill and discover what goes on there. We also sing songs, dance, act out stories, and share experiences (including show-and-tell) during large group time.

### **20 minutes**    **Outdoor Play**

Outdoor play time allows children and teachers a needed energy release. Children develop large and small motor skills, apply literacy, math and science concepts, release energy, exercise their bodies, interact freely with peers, and enjoy fresh air and sunshine.

### **20 minutes**    **Focal/Small Group Activities**

Focal/small group time is where much of a project's development takes place. The class divides into groups to work on activities. Sometimes there are two or three activities, in which case children rotate through them at their own pace. Sometimes there is one activity, and children stick with their group the entire time. In either case, this time gives teachers the opportunity to work one-on-one with each student every day. Learning outcomes and directives are closely monitored during focal/small group activities, and the project is furthered. For example, children may do observational drawings of ants, or decide as a group where to put their ant traps, or match ants with letters to ants with foods starting with those letters. Because teachers only work with 4-5 students at a time, powerful interaction takes place.

### **15 minutes**    **Small Group Reading and Music**

On Monday and Tuesday: When children have finished and cleaned up their small group activities, they are free to choose a book to read. Children may read a book alone, with friends, or with a teacher. We strive during this time to be sure that each child who wants one has an adult to read with. This is the time for children to apply their love of reading.

On Wednesday and Thursday: Children participate in group singing activities. This helps with their cognitive, social and motor skill development and adds to their love of music.

**15 minutes    Snack**

There will be a small nutritious snack (not a meal) provided each day for the children. Snack time is important not only for energy renewal, but for the release and social interaction it provides for the children. During snack we discuss things that are going on in the children's lives, things that interest the children. We also work on manners and problem solving. ("Please pass the apples," or, "How could you get that bowl of pudding from the other end of the table to you, Mark?"). Children have a chance during snack to spend a few minutes chatting with other adults and children in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

**15 minutes    Interactive Literature**

During interactive literature children have the opportunity to interact in meaningful ways with literature through dance, drama, poetry, music and props. This is a time to motivate literacy and nurture a love of reading. Children use puppets to tell the stories, we sing stories as a class, or children don costumes to act stories out. Occasionally children will act out stories they themselves have written!