



Village Nursery School Pre-K
9:20 to 11:50 am
M/W/F (3-day) or M-F (5-day option)
Julia Deery, Director
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At Village Nursery School, our primary goal is to inspire a life-long love of learning while we prepare students socially, emotionally, and academically for success in kindergarten. Our curriculum follows the Early Learning Foundations developed by the Indiana Department of Education (see the back). We also incorporate **Zoophonics**, **Handwriting Without Tears**, and **Minds in Motion** curricula in our daily schedule.

Curriculum:

Our Pre-k curriculum is theme-based. Each week, we explore a new theme from various perspectives. The students are actively engaged in their learning process through a variety of hands-on experiences, cooperative play, and socialization activities. We believe that the most effective learning for young children takes place through play. All our activities are designed with this in mind. We also recognize and appreciate that students develop at different rates, especially in this age range. Some skills, such as reading and fine motor skills, are developmental in nature and will vary dramatically from one student to another. We believe that preschool experiences should foster self-esteem, creativity, and love of learning, so each student's individual learning style will be foremost in our minds as we move throughout the year. Therefore, we approach the concept of skill mastery from a growth-focused perspective.

<p><u>Parts of Our Day</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greeting/Arrival○ Circle Time: Whole group instruction, concepts, calendar, reading, music, movement, and games○ Centers: Free play, crafts, easel painting, centers, small group instruction, various dramatic play, thematic toys○ Snack Time/Book Time○ Daily Large Motor Time: Outdoor and Indoor options○ Dismissal	<p><u>Sample Weekly Themes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pets and Vets○ Fairytales○ Ocean○ Community Helpers○ Zoo○ Dinosaurs○ Polar Animals○ Space○ Building and Bridges○ Farm
<p><u>Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Name recognition○ Letter/sound recognition○ Number recognition○ Number & letter writing (including writing name legibly)○ Scissor skills○ Rhyming & phonemic awareness○ Rote counting○ Sorting, sequencing, comparing, measuring○ Following single and multi-step directions○ Friendship, sharing, and cooperation○ Emotional self-regulation	<p><u>Extras</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Field trips○ Classroom jobs○ Classroom library○ Classroom celebrations○ Pre-K Holiday Program○ Pre-K Graduation○ Art Gallery Night

Learning Concepts Snapshot

The following concepts are taught during the Pre-K year. We focus on meeting children where they are and fostering the skills that will help them be successful in kindergarten and beyond. For a more comprehensive description of our academic goals, please see www.doe.in.gov/earlylearning for the Early Learning Foundations.

Literacy:

- **Zoophonics** curriculum: Letter recognition and sounds using **Zoophonics** Animals
- Phonemic awareness: rhyming, identifying beginning sounds in words, songs, etc.
- Print concepts: we read from left to right, top to bottom
- Parts of a book: covers, title, author, illustrator, title page
- Reading comprehension: retelling stories, making predictions while reading, identifying main characters and main idea

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics):

- Daily calendar work: days of the week, months of the year, seasons, and weather
- Introduce Rote counting 1-20
- Counting objects (1:1 correspondence)
- Number recognition 0-10
- Order, sort, and group objects according to size, color, shape, etc.
- Identify and describe basic shapes
- Pattern work
- Observe and record natural experiences and experiments
- Use engineering principles to design and test structures

Personal/Social:

- Use words appropriately for self-expression and friendship
- Emotional awareness and self-regulation
- Listening skills and following directions
- Friendship skills and building a strong classroom community
- Confidence-building and gaining independence

Large Motor Skills:

- Running, jumping, climbing, balance, core strength, skipping, crossing the midline
- Use **Minds In Motion** curriculum

Fine Motor and Writing:

- **Handwriting Without Tears** curriculum: simple strategies correctly forming uppercase letters.
- Hand-strengthening activities: playdough, small manipulatives, gluing, lacing, etc.
- Cutting: proper scissor grasp, cutting on straight and curved lines
- Painting, coloring, gluing
- Dressing skills, buttoning, zipping, snapping, etc.
- Daily craft opportunities to build our fine motor skills and enjoy creating
- Direct instruction in writing letters and numbers 0-9
- Journal writing: use words and pictures to tell a story or to describe something