

Whale Group Program Plan

Sandcastle Child Care is licensed to provide care from 6:30am to 6:00pm, Monday through Friday, 12 months per year. Sandcastle is licensed for 120 preschool children. The preschool age groups are divided into 6 classrooms. The Whale room is age 31 months to 3 years old. We operate our preschool rooms at a 1 to 8 ratio. Teachers post a weekly lesson plan using the Creative Curriculum.

Children in the Whale room are supervised at all times by a qualified teaching staff member. The staff interacts with the children during play and activities while providing age-appropriate learning experiences for each child's physical, intellectual, social and emotional developmental needs in a loving, caring environment.

Our program is arranged to accommodate children individually, in small groups and large groups to facilitate a wide variety of activities and experiences. Staff members encourage child selected activities and experiences while, requiring children to participate in group activities is limited.

Assessments are written 3 times per year using Focused Portfolio Assessment tool. The parent is asked to sign a copy of the assessment form, which is then put into the child's file, a copy is also given to the parent. Parents of children that are not yet potty trained are also provided a daily sheet outlining their child's changing activities for each day in attendance. Parents are encouraged to participate in any part of their child's day at Sandcastle. A wide variety of families and cultural backgrounds are represented in the classroom. We welcome parents to participate in representing their families and cultural backgrounds in the classroom.

This plan will be available for parents to review at all times. This plan will be reviewed and evaluated annually by the classroom staff and the Director.

In the Whale room we:

- Encourage awareness of and positive feeling towards self, others and the environment.
- Encourage children to initiate activities, ask questions, make limited choices and solve problems independently.
- Encourage and promote self-expression through language, art, music, and play.
- Provide a variety of activities (art, stories, finger play, songs, movement, language, math and science) that will reinforce and extend concepts and skills.

- Provide an environment that is:
 - Predictable-well defined activity areas, labeled items
 - Child centered-child sized equipment, self-selection in activities, child's artwork displayed.
 - Multicultural and non-sexist
 - Balanced-active and quiet times, indoors and outdoor play, structured activities

- Provide a program that can meet the needs of each individual child.

The Whale classroom will be divided into learning areas that provide children with a variety of learning experiences and materials. Children will choose their own activities and whether to work and play independently or in small groups. The following is a list of specific learning areas, objectives for each, and materials that will be used to meet the objectives.

Art

Objectives:

1. Encourage individual expression and creativity.
2. Offer opportunities to explore a variety of media in a variety of ways.

Materials:

easels, various paints and painting materials, scissors, pencils, crayons, markers, chalk, play-dough, glue, craft materials, pipe cleaners, cookie cutters, utensils, yarn, ribbon, cotton balls, tissue paper, 'junk' items, theme related materials, art related books

Blocks

Objectives:

1. Promote fine motor and coordination skills.
2. Encourage creativity by sorting, stacking, and building.

Materials:

large wooden blocks, Legos, small vehicles, animals, toy people, theme related materials, construction/building related books

Toys and Games

Objectives:

1. Develop problem solving skills
2. Encourage children to explore patterns

Materials:

puzzles, stacking cubes, brads, matching, magnetic boards, lotto and board games.

Dramatic Play

Objectives:

1. Encourage dramatic play and role-playing.
2. Develop language/socialization skills.
3. Provide practice in dressing skills.

Materials:

small table, chairs, kitchen appliances, toy dishes and utensils, plastic food, dolls and doll clothing, ironing board and iron, telephone, hats, clothing and accessories, camera, a full length mirror, assorted theme-related materials, writing materials, theme related books

Large Muscle/Outdoor

Objectives:

1. Develop large and small muscle coordination.
2. Develop balance, posture, and strength.
3. Provide an outlet for energy.

Materials:

balls, climbing equipment, beanbags, bikes, riding vehicles, tumbling mats, jump ropes, music source

Library

Objectives:

1. Promote language and reading readiness skills.
2. Develop an appreciation for literature.

Materials:

cozy seating area, stuffed animals, rotating set of books, book-on-tape sets, puppets, flannel board with flannel board pieces/stories, family/baby pictures

Music and Movement

Objectives:

1. Develop skills of expression, rhythm, and listening.
2. Develop understanding and appreciation of all music.

Materials:

rhythm instruments, tape recorder/compact disc player and cassettes/compact discs, variety of songs, 'voice', multicultural instrument cards, multicultural dance cards

Discovery

Objective:

Encourage children to reason, analyze, explore and classify.

Materials:

magnets and magnetic objects, balance scale, prism, magnifying glasses, kaleidoscopes, sensory bottles, live animals, rocks, shells, sound and scent containers, variety of sensory materials, sound cubes, theme related materials, writing tools, science related books

Sand and Water

Objectives:

1. Help children gain an understanding of people and how they live
2. Introduce children to first hand exploration of physical science

Materials:

sand, water, sensory table, measuring cups, spoons and other materials

Cooking

Objectives:

1. Expand children's vocabulary and language
2. Encourage children to use data collection and organization

Materials:

recipe card, materials, listed on recipe cards

Whale Group Daily Schedule:

6:30 – 7:50	Arrival / Free Play
7:50 – 8:30	Wash hands / Breakfast
8:30 – 9:00	Bathroom / Diapers / Manipulatives
9:00 – 9:50	Outside / Large Motor
9:50 – 9:55	Water Break
9:55 – 10:40	Active Learning / Small Group / Art
10:40 – 10:50	Bathroom
10:50 – 11:30	Wash Hands / Lunch
11:30 – 11:40	Transition / Story
11:40 – 11:45	Water Break
11:45 – 12:00	Free Play / Small Group / Art / Science
12:00 – 12:40	Free Play / Bathroom / Diapers / Large Group
12:40 – 1:00	Story Time (read-a-loud and shared reading) / Group Time
1:00 – 3:00	Nap
3:00 – 3:30	Wash Hands / Snack
3:30 – 4:00	Bathroom/Diapers
4:00 – 4:10	Water Break
4:10 – 6:00	Outside/ Free Play/Depart

Schedules are subject to change based on the needs of the children.

Library and Art rooms are used at the discretion of the teachers for small group or large group activities during small group or free choice. No more than 18 children can be in the Art or Library rooms at one time.

Intentional Transitions are embedded throughout the daily schedule.

Outside time is weather permitting. Schedule will be adjusted if outside time is not possible to allow all classrooms time in the gym.

This Program Plan will be reviewed once a year by both the teaching staff and the Director.

Teacher: _____ Date: _____

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Director: _____ Date: _____