

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

## NURSERY CLASSES

At Hillcrest, we take great pride in providing all our preschool children with a well-balanced curriculum that meets each child's individual needs. Through play, arts & crafts, story time, music and outdoor fun, each day becomes a learning experience for the children.

### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- to promote independence and self-help skills
- to enhance eye-hand co-ordination
- to encourage responsibility
- to develop a sense of belonging - "My Cubby"

### SHELF TOYS/PUZZLES - BLOCK CENTRE

- to experience cause and effect
- to experience 3-dimensional objects
- to develop communication skills, social skills and co-operative skills
- to enhance and promote imaginative play
- to enhance fine motor skills when manipulating the different puzzle and toy pieces
- to develop thinking skills and problem solving techniques
- to promote and enhance sharing and turn taking

### CIRCLE - LANGUAGE & LITERACY

We will be introducing an alphabet program. Each week we will be learning a new letter, and the corresponding sound. Through arts & crafts, show & share, and stories, the children will have a better understanding of each letter.

- name recognition through various name cards, cubby labels, and name games
- to promote and enhance the recognition of both upper and lower case letters
- to develop a phonetic awareness of each letter, through weekly activities and learning circles
- to develop and enhance listening skills and attention span
- to develop an appreciation of books
- to promote verbal skills
- to develop thinking and co-operative skills

## CREATIVE EXPLORATION/FINE MOTOR/PRE-PRINTING

- to develop an awareness of colour, design and texture
- to increase ability to concentrate
- to develop self expression and imagination
- to allow the child to experiment through process, rather than product
- to promote eye-hand coordination
- by using a variety of writing tools, the children will understand the first steps to pre-printing ie: scissors-lacing-tongs-clothes pins-tracing activities
- introduction to different media

## COGNITIVE AWARENESS: MATH & SCIENCE

- to promote curiosity
- to develop and enhance the children's 5 senses
- to explore the world around us
- to predict an outcome and compare to the actual results
- to learn and explore the ages of the earth
- to allow themselves to become a scientist and experience a sense of wonder
- to promote number recognition and rote counting from 1-5.
- to begin the process of one-to-one correspondence
- an introduction to patterning and sorting
- to enhance skills such as: classifying, size discrimination, sequencing, colour and number concepts, and THINKING SKILLS

## SENSORY

- to help a child to explore the environment using his/her senses  
i.e. touch, sight, smell, taste, hearing
- to develop social skills through sharing and co-operation

## IMAGINATION STATION - DRAMATIC PLAY

We thrive on small group settings to help children build confidence and trust within their own personal shelf.

- to promote and enhance imaginative skills
- to develop communication skills with the children and teachers in the different rooms

## MUSIC

Daily musical activities are carefully designed to help the children develop motor, auditory and rhythmic skills. Group participation, imaginative expression and building of self-esteem are naturally incorporated into the musical experience. Unique songs, school wide music circles and day-to-day programming provide endless opportunities for fun and laughter. Our music team provides a fun and stimulating music experience for everyone in our Hillcrest family.

## OUTDOOR PLAY

- to promote and enhance gross motor skills (large muscle)
- to gain confidence with control of body parts when using the equipment
- to promote dramatic and imaginative play
- to release energy and have FUN

## LIBRARY TIME

The book centre is a quiet area for reading and relaxing. The children are able to:

- first steps to reading: prediction and outcome
- enhance their imagination and concentration skills
- develop their appreciation for books
- promote conversation with peers and adults
- help develop oral language skills
- to understand and appreciate individual quiet time

## JEWISH HERITAGE PROGRAM / HEBREW

The children celebrate Shabbat (the Sabbath) every Friday. You are welcome to join in this special time with your child. Please contact your child's teacher to arrange a mutually agreeable date. Jewish holidays are introduced and celebrated through storytelling, songs and creative activities. Our regular newsletters and communications will advise you of all our special events.

During the weekly Hebrew program, the children are encouraged to speak the language through games, songs, repetition and by labelling many visual props. The children will learn Hebrew names for the Jewish holidays and their symbols. They will also acquire an everyday, basic vocabulary, such as greetings, people in the family, body parts, seasons, gender, colours, counting and more!

### SMARTBOARD

We have now implemented Smart Boards into all of our Nursery classrooms. The children will be participating interactively through the use of the Smart Boards. Children will be able to use the Smart Board during our opening circle and for colour and shape recognition, sequencing, counting, matching, calendar activities and story telling.

### SPECIALIZED ART PROGRAM

All Nursery children participate in an art-based program. Children are never too young to start learning about Art and basic Art History. The classes will be comprehensive and process-focused and will balance learning, exploring various artistic techniques and creative/emotional expression. The program will involve a variety of art media including painting, collage and sculpture through story-telling and hands-on learning.

### FRENCH

Children will be introduced to the letters of the alphabet and simple words in the weekly French program.

## LUNCH TIME

A hot, nutritionally balanced lunch is provided on a daily basis for extended day and full day Nursery children. Lunch is supervised by our staff and children will be encouraged to eat and enjoy. The children will practise social skills while sitting with their friends at a table, while learning patience, manners and nutritional knowledge.

## MUSIC WITH MISS DRISCOLL:

In this music program, the children will be introduced to the basic vocabulary to understand music. Through the use of interactive games on the Smart Board, playing instruments, singing and group activities and games, the children will learn about beat, pitch, tempo and rhythm. In addition, children will be exposed to a variety of music and instruments from around the world and be given the opportunity to make their own music.

## SEE SAW APP

We are happy to have incorporated "SEE SAW" into our program. It is an app that is downloadable to any smart phone, where teachers post photos and classroom news. It helps to keep you informed of the fun activities that take place during the school day, and enables teachers to share important and general information with you!