

DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDELINES for ST. PIUS X PRESCHOOL

Listed below are some questions to consider before registering for the appropriate class. This list is not a comprehensive list and is simply intended to promote thoughts and conversations.

Social Development

- * How well does your child separate from you?
- * Is your child able to interact with peers and/or adults?
- * Is your child able to seek out others to play?
- * What types of play does your child participate in: independent play, parallel play (side by side), interactive play?

Emotional Development

- * How confident is your child?
- * Is your child self-sufficient and/or independent?
- * How does your child handle peer conflict?

Speech Development

- * Can non-family members understand more than 50% of what your child says?
- * Does your child have proper enunciation of words, phrases, and sentences?
- * How does your child express his/her thoughts? (i.e. crying, one word commands or statements, full sentences)

Fine Motor Development

- * Does your child have a correct pencil grip?
- * Does your child display a smooth and legible writing stroke?
- * Can your child use scissors? (i.e. basic operation, cut a straight line, cut a circle or angles)

Academic Development

- * Does your child know colors and shapes?
- * Does your child know the letters in his/her name?
- * Can your child say the alphabet?
- * Does your child know the difference between letters and numbers?
- * Can your child count? If so, how high? With one to one correspondence?
- * Can your child write his/her name?

Class selection can be a very difficult decision. Each child has individual needs. What is best for one child may not be the best for another. For example, while some children benefit greatly from attending the 5 day program prior to kindergarten, others go directly from the 3 day class and experience equal success. Other children start the 3 day program and attend the 5 day class the second year before enrolling in kindergarten. And yet another, not uncommon situation, is for students to attend all three preschool classes prior to enrolling in Kindergarten at the age of 6. Listed below are some general characteristics of students attending each class. This list of characteristics reflects just some of the traits students have. Please keep in mind that these are general guidelines, not requirements. All students have individual needs. Children develop at different rates, one not being better than the other.

2 DAY CLASS

- * 3 years old
- * 2-3 years from attending kindergarten
- * Potty trained
- * Beginning social interactions

3 DAY CLASS

- * 4 years old
- * 1-2 years from attending kindergarten depending on age and development
- * Developing confidence with separation
- * Developing letter and number recognition
- * Beginning name writing
- * Developing fine motor skills

5 DAY CLASS

- * 4-5 years old
- * 1 year from kindergarten
- * Developing number, letter and letter sound recognition
- * Writes own name, developing last name
- * Minimal separation anxiety
- * Developing independence

This session is designed to bridge the gap between Preschool and Kindergarten. The program is created for children who will enroll in Kindergarten the following year. This class will focus on teaching social skills, enhancing academic skills, and guiding emotional development.

Benefits to the students:

- * Daily schedule to help them establish routine
- * More pre-reading and pre-writing activities to assist with child development
- * Better able to ease the transition to kindergarten
- * Academic ease into kindergarten curriculum
- * Instruction to enhance each child's social, emotional, spiritual, physical, and academic growth