

## **SHARING TREE PRESCHOOL**

### **Our Curriculum Guide**

The curriculum guide of Sharing Tree Preschool has been refined over the years in order to provide the best learning opportunity for your preschooler.

#### **PHILOSOPHY**

It is the philosophy of Sharing Tree Preschool to provide age-appropriate educational programs that will encourage each child to grow spiritually, cognitively, physically, and socially in a loving and caring environment. We exist to enable children to grow in all areas of development in a secure, nurturing, Christian setting. Our motivation is to achieve excellence in academic curriculum and Biblical knowledge, while providing activities that foster physical, language, and social development. Through our warm atmosphere, it is our desire that each child will gain confidence, self-respect, and a love for God that will saturate his/her life.

#### **MISSION**

It is the mission of Sharing Tree Preschool to seek God's will in developing each child's unique potential to become a life-long learner, a disciple of Jesus Christ and a productive citizen.

#### **VISION**

Our vision at Sharing Tree Preschool is to be recognized as a leader in Florida for faith-based early childhood programs that prepares children for success in kindergarten and in their future educational endeavors, while providing quality, Biblical-based education. We strive to develop children who will impact their world for Christ and transform our communities for generations to come.

#### **CORE VALUES**

The following core values are the basis of our programming at Sharing Tree Preschool. These core values are built upon the belief that the spiritual, cognitive, social/emotional, and physical development of every child is at the center of everything we do. It is important for us:

- To affirm the value, worth, and individuality of every child
- To enable each child to discover their personal interests, talents and skills
- To support an exceptional staff committed to providing caring, sensitive guidance with fair and consistent rules
- To present a comprehensive curriculum which is creative and innovative

- To create an environment that promotes social growth and behavior
- To remain rooted in Christianity but welcoming to children of all faiths
- To provide support for the families

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:14-16)
2. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son who as Savior of the world died for our sins and rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-8).
3. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, John 1:1, Matthew 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
4. We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts the world in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment, and who at the point of salvation indwells every believer and equips them for personal growth and service to the church (John 16:8-9; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:13-14).
5. We believe that heaven and hell are definite places.
6. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Sharing Tree Preschool is a Christian-based learning center designed for 2 to 5 year old children. As a ministry of Christ's Church, our goal is to provide an atmosphere of love and acceptance that allows each child to develop at his/her highest level in every area. We strive to offer a curriculum that encourages children to develop spiritually, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically.

We have a developmentally based approach that focuses on skill development appropriate for each age group. Our highly trained teachers direct each child according to their individual capabilities and maturity level. The rooms are designed not only to be warm and inviting but also to create a stimulating classroom environment.

Each month, we send a calendar home that informs parents of our academic focus for the month. The weekly units or themes are used as a planning tool for the staff. The units provide variety as the skills are reinforced and taught throughout the year. This gives the teachers an opportunity to observe each child's growth and progress as it relates to the curriculum. Special guests are invited in periodically to enhance the program. Some learning units are reformatted and repeated yearly since all children learn through repetition. As children develop so do their cognitive abilities. Repetition provides new learning situations in proportion with their capabilities.

### **EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of their enrollment, the children at Sharing Tree Preschool will be able to demonstrate competency in the following domains. Students will:

### Spiritual

- understand that God loves them
- understand that Jesus is God's son
- use prayer to express their thoughts and needs to God
- share with others about God, Jesus, and the Bible
- know that God created the world
- display Godly character traits (politeness, faith, thankfulness, kindness, obedience, love, generosity, perseverance, respect, and courage)

### Social/Emotional

- value familial relationships and understand the importance of obeying parents and teachers
- learn to separate from parents without emotional upset
- begin to learn the art of sharing
- begin to show empathy and kindness
- develop self-confidence
- begin to exhibit self-control
- use language to express needs, feelings, and frustrations
- demonstrate responsibility for behavior and for personal belongings

### Cognitive

#### *General*

- be able to engage with others in learning activities, including the ability to explore, create, experiment, observe, plan, analyze, reason, investigate, and question
- initiate investigation as a result of carefully observing their surroundings
- enjoy creative expression

#### *Numeracy*

- understand math vocabulary, concepts, and directed activities

#### *Language and Literacy*

- understand the importance and use of language in the environment
- have cultivated pre-writing skills in the context of emergent literacy
- be aware of different letter sounds

### Physical

- acquire and refine the fundamental movements of balance and movement

- acquire and develop fine motor skills
- recognize that their body is created by God, and they will take special responsibility to care for it

## **GOALS/BENCHMARKS FOR OUR 2's PROGRAM**

### Spiritual

Goal A: Students will know that God loves them and that Jesus is God's Son

Benchmark: 1. Students will understand that God wants to have a relationship with each person through Jesus

Goal B: Students will understand that God talks to us through the Bible

Benchmarks: 1. Students will understand that the Bible is God's Word  
2. Students will be able to identify Bible verses  
3. Students will learn godly character through songs and stories

Goal C: Students will learn how to communicate to God through prayer

Benchmarks: 1. Students will understand that prayer is talking to God  
2. Students will know that prayer is used to express their thoughts and needs to God

Goal D: Students will know that God created the world

Benchmarks: 1. Students will enjoy direct experience with the world that God created  
2. Students will know that God wants each person to care for the world

### Social/Emotional

Goal E: Students will establish trust and emotional security

Benchmarks: 1. Students will form and maintains secure relationships with others  
2. Students will respond to the environment  
3. Students will separate easily from parents

Goal F: Students will develop self-regulation

Benchmarks: 1. Students will demonstrate increasing emotional regulation  
2. Students will demonstrate increasing social problem-solving

Goal G: Students will build self-concept

Benchmarks: 1. Students will form and maintain mutual relationships with others  
2. Students will become aware of oneself as a unique individual with still connected to others  
3. Students will demonstrate an increasing sense of competence and confidence in growing abilities

### Cognitive

Goal H: Students will develop problem-solving/math readiness skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will begin using numbers
  2. Students will distinguish one from many
  3. Students will begin to distinguish and name colors
  4. Students will begin to identify shapes

Goal I: Students will develop emergent reading skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will name familiar pictures in picture books
  2. Students will show growing interest in print and books
  3. Students will enjoy hearing familiar stories over and over again
  4. Students will enjoy simple stories, rhymes, and songs
  5. Students will recognize first name in print
  6. Students will increase awareness of alphabet letters

Goal J: Students will develop emergent writing skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will use scribbles and unconventional shapes to convey messages
  2. Students will begin to trace a straight line

### Physical

Goal K: Students will begin to use gross motor skills with purpose and coordination

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will climb steps without assistance
  2. Students will jump in place
  3. Students will march in place
  4. Students will drink from a cup unassisted
  5. Students will catch a small ball or beanbag
  6. Students will show balance in use of large muscles
  7. Students will climb up and down playground equipment without assistance

Goal: Students will begin to use fine motor skills with purpose and control

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will develop a preference for right or left hand
  2. Students will stack 4-6 objects
  3. Students can turn the pages of a book
  4. Students will scribble with crayons and markers
  5. Students will develop and strengthen eye-hand coordination by molding playdough and painting
  6. Students will put pegs in a pegboard
  7. Students will use writing and drawing tools with control

### Language and Communication

Goal L: Students will improve listening skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will gain meaning through listening
  2. Students will listen quietly to stories
  3. Students will follow simple commands

Goal M: Students will improve communication skills

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will speak clearly enough to be understood by most listeners  
2. Students will participate in conversations  
3. Students will use language to express needs  
4. Students will begin to speak in 3-4 word sentences

### **GOALS FOR OUR 3's PROGRAM**

#### Spiritual

Goal A: Students will know that God loves them and that Jesus is God's Son

- Benchmark: 1. Students will understand that God wants to have a relationship with each person through Jesus

Goal B: Students will understand that God talks to us through the Bible

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will understand that the Bible is God's Word  
2. Students will be able to identify Bible verses  
3. Students will learn godly character through songs and stories

Goal C: Students will learn how to communicate to God through prayer

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will understand that prayer is talking to God  
2. Students will know that prayer is used to express their thoughts and needs to God

Goal D: Students will know that God created the world

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will enjoy direct experience with the world that God created  
2. Students will know that God wants each person to care for the world

#### Social/Emotional

Goal E: Students will establish trust and emotional security

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will form and maintains secure relationships with others  
2. Students will respond to the environment  
3. Students will separate easily from parents

Goal F: Students will develop positive social behaviors

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will play and share with others  
2. Students will show concern for classmates  
3. Students will show respect for teacher  
4. Students will begin to take turns  
5. Students will listen quietly when others are speaking

Goal G: Students will demonstrate increasing self-regulation

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will follow directions/school rules  
2. Students will adapt to transitions with support  
3. Students will show developing ability to respond appropriately to correction

4. Students will show developing ability to solve social problems with support from familiar adults

### Cognitive

Goal H: Students will develop general knowledge

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will know basic colors
  2. Students will participate in learning centers

Goal I: Students will develop emergent reading skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will show awareness of letters
  2. Students will show an appreciation and enjoyment of reading
  3. Students will demonstrate beginning phonological awareness
  4. Students will demonstrate comprehension and respond to stories

Goal J: Students will develop problem-solving/math readiness skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will recognize shapes
  2. Students will show an awareness of symbols/numbers
  3. Students will demonstrate an interest in mathematical problem solving
  4. Students will sort objects into groups by one characteristic
  5. Students will show knowledge of numbers and counting

Goal K: Students will demonstrate early writing skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will begin to use writing, pictures, and play to express ideas
  2. Students will show beginning writing skills by making letter-like shapes and scribbles to write

Goal L: Students will develop knowledge of the arts

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will use many different creative art materials to express and explore
  2. Students will engage in musical experiences
  3. Students will engage in creative movement and dramatic play

### Physical

Goal M: Students will use gross motor skills with increasing purpose and coordination

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will participate in indoor games
  2. Students will play actively on the playground without teacher direction
  3. Students will jump in place
  4. Students will alternate feet on stairs
  5. Students will walk on a balance beam

Goal N: Students will use fine motor skills with increasing purpose and control

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will demonstrate increasing control of small muscles
  2. Students will show improving eye-hand coordination
  3. Students will use various drawing and art tools with developing coordination
  4. Students will show improvement when coloring in the lines

### Language and Communication

Goal O: Students will improve listening skills

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will listen to and understand spoken language  
2. Students will show understanding by following simple directions

Goal P: Students will improve communication skills

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will show improving expressive communication skills  
2. Students will show increased vocabulary and use language for many purposes

## **GOALS/BENCHMARKS FOR OUR 4's PROGRAM**

### Spiritual

Goal A: Students will know that God loves them and that Jesus is God's Son

- Benchmark: 1. Students will understand that God wants to have a relationship with each person through Jesus

Goal B: Students will understand that God talks to us through the Bible

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will understand that the Bible is God's Word  
2. Students will be able to identify Bible verses  
3. Students will learn godly character through songs and stories

Goal C: Students will learn how to communicate to God through prayer

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will understand that prayer is talking to God  
2. Students will know that prayer is used to express their thoughts and needs to God

Goal D: Students will know that God created the world

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will enjoy direct experience with the world that God created  
2. Students will know that God wants each person to care for the world

### Social/Emotional

Goal E: Students will develop self-regulation

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will follow simple rules and routines with teacher support  
2. Students will begin to use materials with increasing care and safety  
3. Students will adapt to transitions with increasing independence  
4. Students will demonstrate growing independence

Goal F: Students will build relationships

- Benchmarks: 1. Students will interact and develop positive relationships with peers  
2. Students will develop special friendships  
3. Students will show care, concern and respect for others



4. Students will develop positive relationships and interact comfortably with adults.

### Cognitive

Goal G: Students will develop mathematical thinking skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will develop concepts of number sense (1:1 correspondence, counting, comparison of quantities, ordinal positions)
  2. Students will develop concepts of number and operations (addition/subtraction with concrete objects)
  3. Students will strengthen understanding of patterns and seriation (ordering by size)
  4. Students will develop concepts in geometry (2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes)
  5. Students will develop concepts in spatial relations (position words)

Goal H: Students will develop emergent reading/literacy skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will show an understanding of words and their meanings
  2. Students will show motivation for reading
  3. Students will show age-appropriate phonological awareness (distinguish words from sentences, make compound words, identify syllables)
  4. Students will show alphabetic knowledge (letters and sounds)
  5. Students will demonstrate comprehension of text read aloud

Goal I: Students will develop emergent writing skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will use scribbling, letter-like shapes and letters that are clearly different from drawing to represent thoughts and ideas
  2. Students will demonstrate age-appropriate ability to write letters

Goal J: Students will develop creative expression through the arts

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will create visual art to communicate an idea
  2. Students will explore music
  3. Students will create dramatic play

### Physical

Goal K: Students will use gross motor skills with increasing purpose and coordination

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will demonstrate increasing motor control and balance
  2. Students will demonstrate the ability to combine movements for gross motor skills

Goal L: Students will use fine motor skills with increasing purpose and control

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will demonstrate increasing control of small motor muscles to perform simple tasks
  2. Uses eye-hand coordination to perform fine motor tasks
  3. Shows beginning control of writing by using various drawing and art tools with increasing coordination

Language and Communication

Goal M: Students will improve listening skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will increase knowledge through listening
  2. Students will follow multi-step directions

Goal N: Students will improve communication skills

- Benchmarks:
1. Students will use speech that is understood by both a familiar and an unfamiliar peer or adult
  2. Students will use age-appropriate grammar in conversations and increasingly complex phrases and sentences
  3. Students will connect phrases and sentences to build ideas
  4. Students will use language to express needs and feelings, share experiences, predict outcomes, and resolve problems
  5. Students will ask questions and respond to adults and peers