



SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

## OUR AIMS OF JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

1. That our Junior Kindergarten provides a caring, Christian environment.
2. That a stimulating learning environment, rich in books, games, educational toys, etc. be provided to meet the needs of the four-year old. This will be accomplished through a thematic program and learning centres. We will focus on developing expressive language, listening skills, alphabet recognition, number recognition, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and enhancing creative thinking.
3. That each child develops to his or her fullest potential socially, intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually in a classroom conducive to love and service.
4. That our Junior Kindergarten be a secure and cheerful place in which each child feels free and eager to express him or herself.

*"Play is the child's natural method of learning."*

*"Toys are the textbooks of the young child."*

*Suzanne Eden*

## LEARNING GOALS

The objectives are implemented through many learning activities. Without trying to provide a complete list of all these activities, we do want to share what we'll try to do with your child in Junior Kindergarten.

Our Junior Kindergarten class is a place where children will learn to:

### **Art:**

- Explore the various media in art
- Use scissors, pencils, crayons, glue, and paint
- Enjoy creating something with their own hands

### **Bible:**

- Know songs and stories that show the love relationship between our Heavenly Father and the student
- Know Old and New Testament stories
- Appreciate special themes: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter
- Pray for and with each other

### **Language Development:**

- Take an interest in books
- Take an interest in learning new vocabulary
- Be introduced to letters and sounds
- Recognize and print their own name
- Identify colours
- Develop their listening skills
- Expand their ability to concentrate
- See shapes and discriminate their differences

## PLAY TODAY

You say you love your children and are concerned they learn today?

So am I.

That's why I'm providing a variety of kinds of play.

You're asking me the value of blocks and other such play?

Your daughter's creating a tower. She may be a builder some day.

You're asking what's the value of having your children play?

Your children are solving problems. They will use that skill everyday.

You're saying you don't want your son to play in that "sissy" way?

He's learning to cuddle a doll. He may be a father some day.

You're questioning the learning centres; they look like useless play?

Your children are making choices. They'll be on their own some day.

You're worried your children aren't learning and later they'll have to pay?

They're learning a pattern for learning, for they'll be learners always!

-Author unknown

### 3. *Foster a Love for Books*

- read and reread favourite books
- visit the library regularly
- read together every day
- read books with predictable texts so they can 'read' with you

### 4. *Encourage social skills such as*

- saying "please" and "thank you"
- tidying up after him/herself
- waiting his/her turn

We are confident that you already do most of these activities. Together we can help each child blossom with self-confidence, eager to learn more about his/her place in God's marvellous creation.

### **Mathematics:**

- Recognize shapes
- Count by rote 1 to 10 and beyond
- Recognize numbers 1 to 10 and beyond
- Develop a sense of 'more' or 'less'
- Create and recognize patterns

### **Music:**

- Memorize and sing simple songs
- Participate in singing games
- Imitate simple rhythm and clap the rhythm with familiar songs
- Incorporate actions and body movement
- Match the tone

### **Physical Development:**

- Develop large motor skills
- Develop fine motor skills
- Develop coordination

### **Social Development:**

- Develop a sense of self-worth
- Relate to others through co-operation and courtesy
- Share with classmates and take turns
- Be a group member
- Accept adult authority
- Acquire sufficient self-control to function in a group situation, the responsibility to care for equipment and the responsibility of making choices
- Follow routines

In the early years, children are most receptive. It is at this stage that life-long patterns for learning are established. Our Christian school wants to help you in educating and nurturing your children in the way of the Lord. May your children experience real joy as they work and learn in the Lord's Creation here at Thunder Bay Christian School.



## PREPARING FOR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

There are many ways in which you can help your child prepare for Junior Kindergarten. In fact you are probably already doing many things to help him/her adapt to the school setting successfully. To encourage you along, here are a few suggestions:

### 1. *Teach Your Child Independence*

- in eating
- in dressing (avoid belts, buckles and fancy clothing that hinders the child's ability to quickly go to the washroom or recess)
- in toilet training

### 2. *Foster Creativity*

- provide opportunity to explore and create with sand, water, mud, paint, 'junk'...
- ask "what do you think" questions that have no right or wrong answer
- offer a good supply of paint, crayons, markers