



# Welcome to Hillside Preschool Explorers

## **Basic Daily Schedule:**

Drop-off  
Learning Centers & Journaling  
Circle Time & Lesson  
Seat Work & Crafts  
Clean-up & Snack  
Bible Lesson & Story Time  
Recess  
Coats & Totes / Dismissal

## **Learning Centers:**

Language Arts / Writing (building vocabulary, writing & fine motor skills)  
Manipulatives / Puzzles: (beginning math skills)  
Building / Blocks: (beginning math skills)  
Science (building questioning & problem solving skills)  
Reading / Library: (beginning reading skills)  
Dramatic Play / Kitchen & Dress-up: (building social skills, language & problem solving)  
Free Art & Crafts: (building creativity & strengthening fine motor skills)  
Recess (beginning team building & strengthening gross motor skills)

## **Circle Time:**

Pledge of Allegiance  
Calendar  
Count 100 Days of School (learn grouping & skip counting)  
Introduce or Review Lesson (letter, sight words, number, seasonal theme)  
Sign Language  
Spanish

## **Seat Work & Crafts:**

Worksheets that corresponds with the lesson of the day  
Crafts that corresponds with the lessons of the week

## **Homework:**

Homework will be sent home 2-3 times a week (as review) in your child's folder  
Your child's homework folder will be sent home on the first day of school

## **Borrow-a-Book:**

A book will be sent home once a month along with a journal page for your child to complete and send back to school. Your child will be allowed to keep the book for about 2 weeks. There will be a sheet attached with the return date.

## **Math Bags:**

Starting in January, Math Bags will be sent home weekly on a rotating schedule  
The bags each contain a different basic math concept

## What is the Explorers Program?

Our Explorers program is designed as a “year to grow program”. It was created for students who have completed a 4-year-old program & aren’t quite ready for kindergarten. If your child’s teacher feels that they are socially and academically ready and would benefit from the challenge of Explorers in addition to our 4-year-old program in the morning- we can discuss that on a case-to-case basis.

In Explorers, the students “explore” topics more in depth and build upon skills learned in our 4-year-old program! The program helps to refine the skills learned in the 4s program. For example:

In a 4s class, the letter of the week is “B.” The centers, worksheets, lessons and songs will all revolve around learning, recognizing and writing the letter “B.”

In the Explorers class, the children will not only review the recognition and writing aspects of the letter “B,” but will do an in-depth study of subject matter that begins with the letter “B” through the lessons, learning centers, crafts, etc.

Explorers combines enrichment activities along with strong educational readiness skill preparation. The Explorers curriculum emphasizes sight words, which are on target for this age and developmental level. In addition, emphasis is placed on the following subjects: math, phonics, reading and writing readiness, science and social studies! Students will also begin journaling, and explore the creative arts, cooking, gardening, science projects and dramatic play!

We also offer home based extension programs for math and literacy development! Our “Math Take-Home Bags”, which begin in January, encourage family involvement and introduce fun games that will review the math concepts learned in class! Explorers also take advantage of our Borrow-A-Book program! This program encourages at-home journaling about the accompanying book.

The educational and enrichment opportunities in the Explorers class offer a well-rounded program that builds confidence and prepares children for their formal education.

**Specials:** Chapel, Music, Computers/Smart Board

**Days this class meets:** This class meets in the afternoon

You have the option to choose our 4-day (no Wed) or 5-day option

Students who choose the 4-day class option will just miss Wednesday’s activities

**Field Trips:** Explorers class typically participates in several field trips throughout the year.

Including a visit to: Shoprite, a local farm in the fall, a dental office, a local bank, Panera’s “Bakers in Training Program” & Walmart to purchase Christmas gifts for a local family in need.

**Classroom Ministry:** Make holiday cards for church members who are homebound, Collect and pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child, Purchase Christmas gifts for a local family in need.