

LONG-RANGE CURRICULUM GOALS FOR SAPLINGS GROUP

Our program embraces the whole child, not just specific areas of development. The activities encompass language development, sensory awareness, large and small motor development, spatial and number concepts, art and music appreciation, practical life skills, nature and science, visual and auditory discrimination and social personal growth.

PHYSICAL: The goals are to begin to gain large-muscle competence in hopping on one foot, catching a large ball and throwing with some accuracy. They should be able to use a balance beam, ride a tricycle, put on/take off a coat without assistance and put on their own socks and shoes. They should be able to develop the small-muscle skills of holding crayons with the fingers, making balls and snakes with clay, cutting accurately with scissors, stringing small beads and assembling small table toys such as Legos.

EMOTIONAL: The goals are to encourage the children to understand the words for emotions (happy, sad, angry, hurt) and to express their needs and problems in words instead of crying, hitting or biting. They should be comfortable with increasingly exploratory behavior.

INTELLECTUAL: We want this group to be able to recognize colors, speak in 4-to-6 word sentences, rote count from 1 to 20, put together 8 piece puzzles, name objects in their environment (clothing, furniture, foods), identify sounds and sing songs, say their full names and know their age and recognize their first names in writing. There is the beginning of work on understanding opposites and prepositions.

SOCIAL: The social goals of this group are (1) to respect our classmates, ourselves and our environment; (2) to be able to talk and listen to other children; (3) to begin actively participating in group

activities; (4) to be able to perform responsibilities for self-care (toileting, washing hands, putting away toys, cleaning up after snack) independently with some prompting.