

ELCC Curriculum Philosophy

Our purpose as an Early Learning Center is to help all children in our care:

- Learn and grow
- Problem solve and develop self-discipline
- Develop a positive self-image
- Have a profound knowledge of God's love through Christ Jesus our Savior

We accomplish this through providing quality childcare in a Christian setting by using loving, creative, and purposeful means to guide and nurture each child in our care. Our concern is for the total personality of the child – physical, social, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

Our curriculum is designed by our lead teachers to be developmentally appropriate and focused on learning goals for each group of children. Child development occurs in a unique way for each child, but children tend to reach developmental milestones in a certain order. To facilitate the children's growth and learning, our teachers plan learning activities that help children work towards their next developmental task in each domain (physical, cognitive, social/emotional, and language). We use the Washington State Early Learning Guidelines and centerwide monthly and weekly themes to guide our lesson planning. Each classroom's lesson plans and routine will include learning opportunities from the following categories:

- fine-motor (using the hands and fingers)
- gross-motor (using the arms, legs, and body)
- social/emotional (interacting positively with others and learning to identify and manage emotions)
- language/literacy (understanding, speaking, and literacy)
- creative expression (art, music, dance)
- large group, small group, and individual activities
- child- and teacher-directed
- indoor and outdoor (weather permitting)

Children learn best through play, when they are exploring the world around them and discovering how they relate to the people and things that surround them. Children will be ready to learn when their basic needs are met and they are in a safe, nurturing environment that provides the right amount of stimulation. Parents are their children's primary teachers, and the child's home life provides a foundation for what they will learn at school. The teacher's role is to design the environment and plan activities and experiences that will allow the child to discover new concepts and reinforce what they have already learned. By interacting with the children, encouraging them, and scaffolding children's learning when necessary, the teacher ensures that the child's play helps them reach their learning goals. By planning learning activities that provide an appropriate level of challenge and engage the children's interests, the teacher ensures that the children are motivated to learn.