



What Every Parent Needs to Know About Early Childhood Education

There is an abundance of information on the various educational approaches to early childhood education. As a parent, it can often be overwhelming to know which approach is best for your child and then determine a fit at a particular school. The good news is that research* suggests that family involvement in education is a primary factor in boosting your child's academic success so that you are

already engaged in this decision is a positive first step in your child's education!



A Catholic educational approach seeks to engage the family fully in their child's educational journey and honors their role as the primary educators of their children. As such, Catholic schools create a community school climate that reproduces, as far as possible, the warm and intimate atmosphere of family life.

* Henderson & Berla, 1994; Izzo, Weissbert, Kasprow &

A Catholic school early childhood classroom serves as an extension of the home and provides a welcoming environment to parents/caregivers to drop-in at any time. We have included the following checklist, courtesy of the Archdiocese of Chicago, to help you assess a quality early childhood education program.

1. Frequent, positive warm interactions among adults and children
2. Planned learning activities appropriate to children's age and development, such as block building, painting, reading stories, dress-up and active outdoor play
3. Specially trained teachers
4. Enough adults to respond to individual children
5. Many varied age-appropriate materials
6. A healthy and safe environment for children
7. Nutritious meals and/or snacks
8. Consistent communication with parents/caregivers

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THE JOHN PAUL REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM:
Nurturing the Child and Family

Goals of JPRCS Early Childhood Education Program

- Each child will progress developmentally at a pace determined by the individual child's needs.
- Each child will be encouraged to explore, discover, experiment, create, question and problem solve.
- Through play, integrated activities, manipulative materials and interaction with others, each child will experience concepts that foster readiness skills and a joy of learning.
- Each child will encounter God within himself and discover his unconditional worth as a child of God.

When your child enters John Paul Regional,
they become part of a community.

Mrs. Alisha Jordan, Principal



Welcome to the JPRCS Early Education Program!

At JPRCS, we believe that God has blessed each child with an immense ability to learn with joy and enthusiasm. Our teachers, affirming that each child is unique and made in the image of God, develop learning experiences at an individual and group level. Our tools of the trade include blocks, easels, a science table, dramatic play, lots of books, building and art materials. All the techniques used in our program seek to engage multiple learning styles including:

- **Visual (spatial):** using pictures, images, and spatial understanding.
- **Aural (auditory-musical):** using sound and music.
- **Verbal (linguistic):** using words, both in speech and writing.
- **Physical (kinesthetic):** using your body, hands and sense of touch.
- **Logical (mathematical):** using logic, reasoning and systems.
- **Social (interpersonal):** using group play to learn with other people.
- **Solitary (intrapersonal):** using individual time for self-study.

When your child enters a preschool or kindergarten at JPRCS, they become part of an established setting for learning. Our preschool and kindergarten classrooms are not just add-ons or separate programs. They are an integral part of the elementary school community and considered an important part of the learning continuum. Most importantly children are welcomed into a community of faith, where they begin learning of God's love for them, and about love for others.



Touring our Early Childhood Education Program

The transition period between early childhood and elementary school can be a crucial period in children's development (Pianta, Rimm-Kauffman & Cox 1999). Our program is developmentally appropriate for our youngest learners, yet prepares them for a smooth transition to elementary school. We follow the Archdiocese of Baltimore Early Childhood Education Curriculum Guide, which contain and extend the essential elements of the U.S. Department of Education National Standards and include:

- Religion
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Art
- Music
- Social Studies
- Science
- Spanish
- Multi-media technology



Catholic schools prepare students for a life of faith, a productive life as citizens, and to establish strong families in our communities ... an education for life and life everlasting.

Archbishop William E. Lori