

# Kindergarten

The Kindergarten program at First Lutheran is designed with the child and his or her needs in mind. Kindergarten is truly an academic year designed for the active, playful, and imaginative five-year-old. Play, action, and exploration are the hallmarks of a child-centered Kindergarten program. Children at this age learn best by using all of their senses. Our program provides opportunities for spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and social growth for children in a Christ-centered environment.

## Curriculum

### Religion

Learning about Jesus is the most important work in our classroom. We begin each group time with a prayer, short devotion, and praise songs. The *Voyages* religion series focuses on Old and New Testament Bible stories. Puppets, flannel graphs, pictures, books, and drama are used to teach Jesus as our best friend and Savior.

### Language Arts

Our **phonics**-based reading series *Beginning* by McGraw-Hill covers each letter and its sounds for reading success. Reading is also taught from the **Balanced Library** approach, where we use the Scott Forsman series to help kids make the connection between reading, writing, and children's literature. Children write regularly in **journals**, write simple books at our **writing center**, read children's literature in our **reading corner**, recite poems at our monthly **poetry party**, attend **library** weekly, and take **accelerated reading tests**.

### Math

Our classroom math focuses on learning mathematical concepts and using math in practical, everyday life situations with the *Saxon* math series. Each day we do **calendar time**, in which

children practice mathematical concepts such as patterning, skip counting, money, and grouping. At the **math center** children practice counting, sorting, classifying, adding, and subtracting with hands-on games.

### Science

Kindergarteners are naturally curious about God's world. We use the *Core Knowledge* curriculum to explore this world at our **Discovery Center**, where children learn about nature and the scientific process of observing, predicting, and evaluating with hands-on discover items and experiments. Units of study include the Human Body, Space, Animal Groups, Seasons and Weather, Plant Growth, and Life Cycles.

### Social Studies

We use the *Core Knowledge* curriculum to explore places and cultures such as Native American Indians, the Discovery of America, the Seven Continents, and the Four Presidents of Mount Rushmore. We also take field trips and perform many hands-on experiments.

### Fine Arts

Children grow creatively through various stages of art development in our **art center**. They learn the proper use and care of materials and art elements such as line and color. We enjoy the artwork of illustrators and artists throughout the year from our *Core Knowledge* curriculum. Our **music program** includes learning, playing, dancing, creating music with voices and instruments, and listening. Concepts such as beat, tempo, pitch, and dynamics are introduced. Most importantly, the children are taught hymns and songs to praise God.

### Physical Education

We teach body awareness, creative movement, simple skills, and cooperative games in PE class.

### Language

**Spanish** and **Beginning Sign Language** are taught and used in the classroom.

### April 2010 Stanford Achievement Test Results

Area	Percentile	Nat'l
Reading	97.9	88.3
Mathematics	96.9	88.0
Environment	97.9	90.8
Listening	98.9	92.4
Complete	97.9	88.2
Battery		

*FLS does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, disability, gender, or national origin.*