



# St. James Preschool

A Ministry of St. James the Apostle Catholic Church

1000 Decatur Rd. McDonough, GA 30252 Phone: 770-957-5441 Ext. 121 Fax: 770-957-0383

**St. James Preschool's curriculum** is developed from years of research on Early childhood development. The methods we use have been shown to have a great impact on the future achievements of our students. Our preschool curriculum offers theme-based units of study that integrate academics, fine and gross motor skills, social skills and religion through structured and unstructured creative play and hands-on experiences. The following are the curriculums that we use for all our classrooms:

## **STREAM** - Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics

**Science: "Science Start"/ LMK Early Childhood Enterprises, Ltd** is a comprehensive, research-based and standards-based early childhood program that uses hands-on experiences for preschool children. This provides a meaningful context for mastering language, literacy, science process skills, and mathematics and to develop a rich knowledge base about the everyday world.

**Technology: Computers** are used in every classroom to supplement the curriculum through software which enhances all of our preschool subjects and program. Students also learn, basic keyboarding skills and develop an interest in technology.

**Religion: "Stories of God's Love" by RCL Benziger** is a Catholic religion program for preschool children. The curriculum teaches bible stories in a simple understandable way for preschool age children. This curriculum also follows the guidelines sent by the Catechism Committee of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**Engineering: "Building Structures and Loose Parts" /Redleaf Press** is part of our new STREAM curriculum. These two curriculums are the "engineering" part of STREAM. Each one allows for exploring, designing, building, creating and using imagination to learn.

**Visual Arts:** challenges and encourages students to actively participate in the arts. Students develop an appreciation for artistic representation they and their friends create. Specific instruction occurs in works of art by famous historical and contemporary artists with themes in color, texture, design and spatial relations.

**Math – "More than Counting"/ Redleaf Press** is part of our STREAM curriculum. This curriculum will touch on areas such as numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement and data analysis/probability. Now, that all sounds way too advanced for preschool but these subjects will be introduced in a "play-based" structure that will only seem like fun to the children!

**"Math Advantage"/ Harcourt Publishing Co.** a math program designed to develop strong problem-solving and critical thinking skills. This curriculum makes use of manipulatives which allow for hands on learning and the opportunity to understand math concepts.

"Let the children come to me." Matthew 19:14

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**Math in Minutes/Gryphon House**-The chapters in the book are organized by math concept and each activity relates directly to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards.

## **Language Arts –**

**“Phonemic Awareness” /Adams, Foorman, Lundberb, Beeler** provides concrete activities for preschoolers that stimulates the development of reading, speech and writing.

**“Write Out Of the Box” /Marianne Gibbs** supports the development of fine motor skills and writing readiness of children 3-6 years old.

**“Hubbards Cupboard”/Michelle Hubbard** Sight words and Phonics booklets

**“Sightwords.com”**- comprehensive sequence of teaching activities, techniques, and materials for one of the building blocks of early child literacy.

**“Spanish- Spanish for Children”/ McGraw Hill**- Easy to understand methods for learning to speak a foreign language at the preschool level.

**Music** develops a general knowledge of music vocabulary, movement, beat, interpretation and rhythm which allows them to develop sensitivity to musical experiences.

**Physical education** instruction is used to develop large muscle skills, awareness of one’s own body and cooperative play skills.

**Social Studies** focuses on learning from the child’s environment as they begin to comprehend their place in the world. Unit themes include: geography, communities, citizenship, and simple economics. Fostering these skills will help our students become contributing members of society.

**“Comprehensive Toddler Curriculum”/Kay Albrecht and Linda Miller** - includes critical components such as applying child development theory to everyday experiences; using assessment to meet individual developmental needs; using the physical environment as a learning tool.

**“ABC Jesus Loves Me”-Two Year Olds** - The “ABC Jesus Loves Me” Curriculum is a comprehensive, research-based toddler and preschool curriculum for ages 1-5, focusing on Bible, academics, and development. Each curriculum contains goals and objectives to gauge the child's learning and growth.