



**LINCOLN
PRESCHOOL**

PHILOSOPHY

At LIA Preschool, we believe that every child is a unique and precious gift from God, deserving of love, respect, and a nurturing environment that fosters intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual growth. We believe that Catholic preschool education is an opportunity to build a strong foundation of faith and character and to prepare children for a life of service, leadership, and moral responsibility.

Our curriculum is designed to provide a rich and stimulating learning environment that encourages children to explore, experiment, and express themselves creatively. We believe in a hands-on approach to learning, where children are encouraged to engage in active play, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

Our Staff

Our LIA staff is committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment that promotes the growth and development of our young learners. They are dedicated and passionate individuals who share the vision and values of our institution.

LIA staff members are responsible for creating and implementing a developmentally appropriate curriculum that reflects Catholic values and teachings. They work collaboratively with each other to plan and execute engaging and meaningful learning experiences that promote our students' cognitive, social, emotional, and spiritual development.

Academics

At LIA, we believe that at the preschool level, academics should be approached in a developmentally appropriate way that takes into account the unique needs and abilities of young learners. While it is important to provide exposure to basic concepts such as colors, shapes, numbers, and letters, our emphasis is on hands-on, play-based learning that is fun and engaging for young children. Activities that encourage exploration, creativity, and problem-solving can help children build essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. We also foster social-emotional development at this age, as it lays the foundation for future academic success. We provide Preschoolers with opportunities to learn through active participation, and a balanced approach that integrates academic and social-emotional learning, thereby setting them up for success in the years to come.

Our Facilities

LIA's Preschool is specifically designed to encourage exploration and active engagement within a protected space. In addition to the attractive play structures, we provide areas for riding vehicles, dramatic play, block building, sand play, and art activities. Safety is a major goal in the design of both outdoor and indoor spaces.

Indoor furnishings, such as tables, chairs, and shelving, accommodate the 2-5-year-old child. A rich array of developmentally appropriate materials is available to support learning in all areas. We also have a sensory gym on campus which provides support to our special learning needs students.





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READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading and language arts at the preschool level focus on building a foundation of literacy skills that will support future learning. We provide activities that encourage language development, such as storytelling, singing, and rhyming, which help children develop phonological awareness and vocabulary. Children are exposed to books, both through reading aloud and independent exploration, to foster a love of reading and to help them develop comprehension skills. While it is important to introduce basic letter recognition, it is not necessary to focus on formal reading instruction at this age. Instead, emphasis is placed on creating a literacy-rich environment that encourages exploration and curiosity. Engaging in activities such as drawing, writing, and dramatic play also supports early literacy development by promoting fine motor skills and encouraging self-expression. We encourage a playful and supportive approach to reading and language arts that lays the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

MATH

Mathematics in preschool focuses on developing a foundation of mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills. Preschoolers are exposed to a range of mathematical concepts such as counting, sorting, measuring, and identifying shapes. These concepts are introduced through play-based activities that are hands-on and engaging. For example, building blocks can be used for counting and sorting, and games can be used to introduce basic addition and subtraction. Preschoolers also learn about patterns and spatial relationships through activities such as puzzles and construction play. We approach math education in a fun and playful way that encourages exploration and curiosity. By introducing mathematical concepts in preschool, we can help children develop critical thinking skills and a strong foundation for future learning in math and related fields.

ESPAÑOL

El programa de español en preescolar prepara a los estudiantes a la adquisición de habilidades básicas para la lectoescritura, de una manera efectiva y comprensiva, desarrollando en nuestros niños a futuro, el gusto por la lectura y la expresión tanto oral como escrita, graduada y apropiada en los diferentes niveles en que se encuentre, ligándose por supuesto de la identificación de la cultura Nicaragüense a través del reconocimiento de tradiciones y personajes que enaltecen nuestra cultura, como Rubén Darío por ejemplo. Pero todo esto se logra de manera gradual según sus edades y niveles:

PK2: Conocimiento de vocabulario nuevo, frases de cortesía, cantos, bailes para desarrollar la motricidad y la conexión con el mundo circundante.

PK3: Además de lo anterior, integración de primeras letras (vocales), formas y ubicación del niño con su mundo cotidiano a través de cuentos, bailes y cantos apropiados a su edad.

PK4: Además de los dos puntos anteriores, integración de algunas consonantes, sonidos, trazos y ejercicios pre caligráficos para alcanzar la soltura muscular, también la adquisición de formas para poder comprender, interpretar y comunicarse con su medio.

Kinder: Además de los tres puntos anteriores, integrar nuevos fonemas y grafemas que le permitan iniciar un proceso lector con comprensión y una escritura que alcance los estándares requeridos para continuar con éxito hacia su meta que es un primer grado confiado en sus capacidades.





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MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Music and movement are essential components of LIA's preschool curriculum, as they provide opportunities for young children to express themselves, develop gross motor skills, and engage in social interactions. Music is introduced to teach children different styles of music, as well as to teach basic concepts such as rhythm and melody. Movement activities help children develop coordination, balance, and spatial awareness, while also promoting physical activity and overall health. Through activities such as dancing, marching, and playing instruments, our students learn to express themselves creatively and work together with their peers. Additionally, music and movement activities support social-emotional development by providing opportunities for children to practice self-regulation, cooperation, and communication skills.

FAITH FORMATION

Our preschool religion program is designed to introduce young children to the basic concepts of the Catholic faith and values in a nurturing and age-appropriate environment. We aim to foster a sense of wonder, curiosity, and respect for our Catholic traditions while promoting a strong moral foundation.

Through engaging activities, stories, songs, and art, we help children explore universal themes such as kindness, compassion, gratitude, and love. We encourage them to reflect on their own experiences and emotions, promoting self-awareness and empathy towards others.

Prayer is incorporated into our daily routine, providing children with opportunities to connect with God and explore their own spirituality. We promote a sense of awe and reverence for the natural world, encouraging children to develop a sense of stewardship and responsibility towards the environment.

Our dedicated teachers, well-versed in religious studies, ensure that the program is delivered with sensitivity, age-appropriate language, and a focus on fostering positive values. We strive to create a joyful and enriching environment where children can develop a strong moral compass, respect for diversity, and a foundation for their spiritual journey.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is critical for preschool-aged children, as it lays the foundation for future success in academic and personal life. At this age, children are learning how to interact with others, express their emotions, and regulate their behavior. SEL helps them develop empathy, build relationships, and understand their own emotions and the emotions of others. By teaching SEL in preschool, children learn valuable life skills that can improve their mental health, academic performance, and relationships with others. SEL can also prevent future problems such as bullying, aggression, and academic failure. Ultimately, SEL in early learning sets children up for a positive and successful future.

At LIA, we pride ourselves in having a Safe Environment Team devoted to fostering and assuring every child's well-being.

