



# ST. PAUL

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL

— Odell, IL —

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# Preschool

# Philosophy

St. Paul Preschool serves as an extension of the mission of St. Paul School, reaching out to children in the early childhood years. Preschool in general is meant to be a place of self-discovery through interaction with others. Children are introduced to experiences that foster development of their Christian values, emotional relationships, creativity, language, physical skills, and social awareness.

At St. Paul Preschool, a Catholic preschool for three and four year old children, students are exposed each day to individual and small group activities in which they practice problem solving using reasoning, play, and social interaction. These activities take place in a low-pressure environment that encourages the children to develop at their own pace. In addition to mental stimulation, gross and fine motor skill development is developed through exercise and art. Structured play, literature, pre-writing and pre-reading activities further encourage language awareness and expression and contributes to social development. Religious activities introduce the children to Catholic religious prayers and practices that are age appropriate.

### OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

\*\*St. Paul Preschool will help children grow as Christians in an environment of love and respect.

1. By helping children to appreciate that Christian love consists of willing and working for the good of another.
2. By teaching children that God is the maker of the natural world around us.
3. By providing an environment where all people are treated as brothers and sisters in God's family.
4. By introducing the children to the mystery and joy to be found in the Faith of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

\*\*St. Paul Preschool will assist children in building social relationships with other children and with adults.

1. By fostering a positive self-concept which will enable the child to appreciate spiritual, academic, personal, social, and physical growth.
2. By providing play activities which foster sharing, problem solving, and reasoning.
3. By teaching the children that they are responsible for their actions.
4. By encouraging the obligations of good citizenship.
5. By modeling and encouraging respect for individual differences.
6. By developing an awareness of group membership and responsibility while at the same time encouraging independence.

\*\*St. Paul Preschool will help students to better understand the language of others and to express their own ideas in common language patterns.

1. Expose the children to quality children's literature and storytelling.
2. Increase vocabulary through classroom activities and experience.
3. Provide experiences in which children are free to verbally express their ideas.
4. Model correct grammar
5. Encourage oral sentence development.
6. Provide opportunities for the children to use descriptive language.
7. Initiate activities that will develop pre-writing and pre-reading skills.

\*\*St. Paul Preschool will help the children to learn to explore, to understand, and to control their physical world.

1. Provide field trips, nature walks, and outdoor activities that make children aware of the community around them.
2. Provide activities in which children experiment with the physical properties of their environment.
3. Encourage the children to gather information, ideas, and materials from various sources in order to solve problems and satisfy curiosity.
4. Provide activities in which children are allowed to express their own artistic creativity and to develop an awareness of the beauty in their environment.