

PRE-SCHOOL (FOUR YEAR OLD) EXPECTATIONS

Creedal Church

- Learns that God created the world
- Learns that God made and loves him/her
- Learns that God gave us the gift of his son, Jesus
- Recognizes Jesus was part of a family with Mary and Joseph
- Begins to understand that he/she is part of God's family, which is the Church
 - + Identifies the Bible as a book that has stories about God
 - + Is familiar with the story of creation (Genesis 1-3)
 - + Is familiar with the story of the nativity (Luke 2:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25)
 - + Is familiar with the story of Jesus blessing the children (Luke 18:15-17, Mark 10:13-16, Matthew 19:13-15)
- Learns that the body is a gift from God**

Liturgy and Sacraments

- Knows that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus
- Begins to understand that Advent is time of preparation and waiting for Christmas
- Begins to understand Easter as the celebration of new life
- Begins to understand some Christian symbols (candles, water, fish, cross)
 - + Is familiar with the story of Easter (Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, John 13-21)
 - + Is familiar with the story of Christmas (Luke 1-2, Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-23)

Characteristics of a Pre-School (Four-Year-Old) Child

- Sits still for limited amount of time unless highly motivated
- Enjoys manipulative play and projects
- Is a sensory learner
- Is imaginative and creative
- Enjoys stories, rhyming and nonsense songs and poems
- Can be aggressive and explosive due to emotional immaturity
- Likes to make choices and begins to see the wisdom of rules
- Is developing sensitivity to the feelings and attitudes of adults
- Needs experiences where he/she feels respected, is given freedom and can succeed
- Needs to be affirmed when he/she shows kindness and friendliness
- Benefits from opportunities to practice thoughtfulness
- Lacks understanding of cause and effect relationships and intentional or unintentional actions
- Sees predominantly from his/her own point of view and developmentally is still very self-centered
- Needs encouragement to share possessions with others but does not want to be forced
- Enjoys celebrations and being part of a group
- Is capable of beginning to understand God's love by experiencing human love
- Benefits from experiences that can raise awareness and appreciation of God's creation
- Can use signs and symbols as a basis for liturgical awareness
- Needs to have demonstrated to him/her that God made each child unique and special
- Knows that prayer can be talking to God in his/her own words

Moral Life

- Gives examples of ways to show love by helping others
- Recognizes the need to care for God's creation
- Learns the importance of sharing with others
- Learns that Jesus taught us to love one another
- Begins to understand the importance of saying "I'm sorry"
- Identifies certain body parts as "private and special"***

Christian Prayer

- Understands prayer as talking to God
- Understands that it is appropriate to thank God for creation
- Knows how to make the Sign of the Cross
- Is familiar with different types of prayer (thanks, asking, silence, praise)
- Understands singing can be prayer
- Is familiar with the Advent wreath
- Uses varied hand positions in prayer