



What should you look for in a Preschool?

Play-based learning!

Faith Lutheran Preschool is a play-based program that focuses on the whole child and strives to instill a love for learning in and out of the classroom. We foster curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, independent learning as well as successful learning in small and large group settings. What makes play-based programs successful? Our students are learning how to follow directions, self-regulate, manage their time, take turns, express their emotions and needs without even realizing it!

Play-based learning is an educational approach that emphasizes learning through play, allowing children to explore, experiment, and discover in a fun and engaging manner. It promotes cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development by encouraging hands-on experiences rather than traditional lessons. This method recognizes that children learn best through active engagement and meaningful interactions, making it a dominant approach in early childhood education today.



What do kids learn through play-based learning?

The short answer: everything. Play builds important social-emotional, self-regulation, developmental, and academic skills.

The “what” kids learn from play-based learning is extensive. They learn cognitive, physical, emotional, social, and creative skills.

- When kids play, they learn to share, cooperate, communicate, and solve problems.
- Play helps children express emotions in a helpful and healthy way.
- Play builds children’s sense of empathy and relationship building.
- Play builds language skills as children engage with one another and gain vocabulary.
- Imaginative play helps children think outside the box and develop perspective-taking.
- Play builds fine and gross motor skills and coordination, as kids crawl, walk, run, jump, and work with smaller objects during play.



As Piaget put it, “Play is the work of children.” Play-based learning encourages kids’ natural curiosity and teaches them important communication and problem-solving skills. Think of the skills it takes to engage in negotiation and planning to create and manage a pretend cafe or build a block castle.

What does play-based learning look like?

In play-based learning programs, children learn by exploring their own interests. Teachers identify and help students pursue their interests by asking questions, creating play opportunities, and encouraging students to expand their play. These different areas allow students to interact with different play settings and explore at their own pace. Children feel good about what they are doing, and their work is fun for them.

