



## Is My Child Ready for Extended Day?

Are you wondering what four year old program is the right one for your child? There are a lot of decisions and things to think about.

- Do I send them to half day or extended day for four year old preschool?
- Two extended or three extended days?

We are a play-based program that gives children the opportunity to learn and grow in a variety of activities throughout the day that include the areas of physical, social/emotional, spiritual and cognitive development. Many of the activities that the children engage in throughout the day typically cross over in different areas of development.

All of our 4 year old classes, whether extended or half day, focus on:

- Social/emotional development during center times, as well as large group circle times, including dramatic play, art, or in the block or library area.
- Cognitive development takes place during large group circle, small group instruction, as well as science and discovery, sensory table, alphabet journals and handwriting books.
- Language and literacy development is seen many times throughout the day whether it is working on letter of the week, letter sounds, word wall words, music and movement, as well as during center times with communication between peers and with teachers.
- Physical development. Each time a child is here for preschool, they are able to engage in gross motor skills in the gym, on the playground, with a parachute, or even walks around our building.
- Spiritual development is a part of your child's day during prayer, Bible stories and verses that go along with the letter of the week, and in conversations with children about all that God has made, or the ways in which we treat others.

### Questions to Ask when considering our Extended Day program:

Does my child regularly nap in the afternoon?

Does my child have little or no separation anxiety?

Is my child emotionally ready to handle being apart from me for the entire school day?

Can my child handle transitions easily?

Is my child able to care for himself independently during lunch, rest time, and in the bathroom?

Is my child willing to try a variety of hands-on experiences?

Is my child interested in learning about a wide array of topics?

Whichever four year old program you decide on for your child, rest assured, we here at Ward Preschool will prepare them for Kindergarten. You know your child best, so trust your instincts about which program, extended or half day, that is best for them.