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## **St. Luke's MMO and Preschool Toddler Curriculum**

The objectives for the children in the Toddler program are ongoing. The teachers and children get to know each other through playful interaction which helps create a caring and loving bond. The teachers then begin to have specific activities which help the students to develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

The Music Program is also incorporated into their daily activities allowing time for the children to respond to music through movement and dance, explore by making sounds and "playing instruments", finding rhythm, and using their voice to make music by singing.

The Art Program introduces the children to a variety of art materials and provides them with an opportunity to be creative. Students will develop fine motor skills and begin to recognize colors and shapes. Children also practice listening to and following simple directions and attending to one task for several minutes at a time.

Cognitively, the children explore objects with all senses, begin to link cause and effect, and learn the importance of following rules and routines. They begin to point and name different objects and practice scribbling.

Month	Skills/Concepts	Themes
September	Separating from caregiver, routines, and school rules.	Welcome to School
October	Continue with separation and transition issues. Introduce colors and shapes in daily routine. Gather leaves, visit petting zoo, and learn about farms and animals.	Fall/ Farm
November	Learning classmate's names and faces. Special attention to thankfulness at snack time and during other activities.	Thanksgiving
December	Learning symbols of Christmas like the nativity scene, Christmas trees, stars, and presents. Participate in Christmas Music Program.	Christmas
January	Recognition of like items. Matching colorful mittens and snowmen scarves. Create snow and winter scenes.	Winter, Snow
February	Emphasize "Acts of Kindness". Exchange Valentines with friends.	Valentine's Day
March	Share books. Read selections from Dr. Seuss books for younger children. Paint shamrocks.	St. Patrick's Day, Dr. Seuss
April	Enjoy an Easter egg hunt using colorful eggs. Emphasize and look for "signs of spring".	Easter, Spring
May	Make Mother's Day cards. Play with sand and water table.	Flowers, Summer

Socially, the children start forming relationships with adults and peers and express emotions while playing with others. We practice school rules like kindness, sharing, listening ears, walking inside, and sitting at snack time.

Emotionally, the children are given opportunities to display a positive approach to new experiences, to feel safe and secure and to demonstrate a sense of trust. Collaborative play allows children to express themselves verbally as well as learn their impact on the feelings and emotions of others.

Physically, the children utilize the playground and play toys, engaging in activities that assist in the development of gross motor skills such as running, skipping, climbing, and using ride-on toys.

Spiritually, the children participate in saying a blessing before snack, sing songs about God and Jesus, hear stories about God and Jesus, learn that God loves them very much, and have opportunities to visit the sanctuary for special events.