

SJS Early Childhood Program Overview

The SJS Early Childhood Program is an excellent opportunity for children aged three to five to develop the skills necessary to be life-long learners. We provide an atmosphere that is engaging and encourages children's overall development. Our curriculum is age appropriate and fosters growth in all curriculum areas, including Religion, Math, Language Arts, Technology, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education, and Science.

Our program is distinguished by the SJS approach to early childhood education. The Early Childhood curriculum supports the development of the whole child, which includes opportunities for cognitive, social-emotional, physical, language, and spiritual development. Our day includes prayer, creativity and exploration, independent and group activities, all of which nurture a sense of respect for themselves and others.

The SJS approach is an educational philosophy focused on the Diocese of Joliet Early Childhood Standards and Guidelines

The SJS philosophy is based upon the following set of principles:

- Children are capable, strong, and able to problem-solve, and must have opportunities to collaborate and share with their peers.
- Children learn through experiences of touching, moving, listening, seeing, and hearing.
- Children learn through collaborating and forming relationships with one another and by manipulating materials in their environment, thus providing endless opportunities for expression.

At SJS, our Early Childhood Program has adapted this educational philosophy because of the way we view and respect children. We believe that children are important, unique, capable, resourceful, competent, active and able to problem solve. Our program reflects this belief and encourages children to be inquisitive and be innately motivated to investigate answers to their questions.

Parents are a vital component to our program. They are viewed as partners, collaborators and advocates for their children. Teachers respect parents as each child's first teacher and involve parents in every aspect of the curriculum. It is not uncommon to see parents volunteering within our classrooms throughout the school.

This philosophy does not end when the child leaves the classroom. Most parents who choose to send their children to our program, incorporate many of the principles within their parenting and home life. With this bridge between school and home, the transition from SJS Early Childhood Program to the K-8 program is seamless. As the children move on to SJS K-8 program, we believe they are better equipped to problem solve, collaborate with their peers, work on projects, and research. The intellectual curiosity that is nurtured in our program is later rewarded as children become lifelong learners. The SJS Early Childhood Program immerses the children into the SJS school community through interactions with other teachers, specialists, and staff, such as in technology, music, art, and library. We participate in several school-wide events throughout the year.