



BLESSED SACRAMENT EARLY LEARNING MISSION

The mission of Blessed Sacrament Early Childhood Program is to create a Christ-centered community by providing an aligned, high quality, relationship-based program which appropriately supports the individual development of birth through age 5 children in our parish school and child development center.

Philosophy/Core Beliefs:

- Every child **develops** (social-emotional, language, literacy, cognitive, physical, spiritual) at an individual rate and possesses unique God-given characteristics, with regards to family language, background, culture, special needs, socioeconomic status, experience and ability
- **Child-centered learning through play and exploration** is an essential vehicle for developing self-regulation as well as for promoting language, cognition, literacy, and social competence
- **Positive and intentional interactions** (includes all) support a nurturing learning environment focusing on student language and learning while answering our call to love our neighbor as ourself
- **Focusing on the whole child** builds strong social, emotional, and spiritual competencies which leads to a sense of self, friendships, independence, and appropriate decision-making
- **Critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, persistence, and a growth mindset** (believing that one can learn) are intentionally developed through school and home learning opportunities
- Culturally relevant, responsive, and respectful **family engagement** requires authentic partnerships between the school and the domestic church (home) which supports a child's self-identity, individual development, and academic success
- **Effective instruction** provides children with a developmentally appropriate setting, daily schedule, materials, experiences, and social support while providing choice and building on their interests
- **Language, literacy, and math** learning experiences are based on student data and intentionally incorporated throughout the program

Components Critical in Achieving Our Core Beliefs:

- Leadership committed to high quality early learning for all
- Intentionally designed and safe (physically and emotionally) environments (indoor/outdoor) that reflect the culture of our families and offer equitable learning opportunities
- Qualified, nurturing, and collaborative staff with a growth mindset who are supported through continual job-embedded professional learning opportunities
- Research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum with consistent implementation
- Strong partnerships with local and parish community that supports our mission and program
- Assessment data used to guide ongoing, intentional planning to support each child's development and learning

Background: *Our philosophy is based on input from staff and families, early childhood research and practice as outlined in the TX Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines, National Association of the Education of Young Child standards, knowledge of child development, National Standards and Benchmarks for Catholic Schools, and best practices for educating young children. These resources emphasize culturally, linguistically, and individually responsive learning experiences and environments. High-quality early learning opportunities prepare children to learn at grade level and beyond to ultimately be college, career, and life ready.*