



ESSENTIAL LEARNING FOR DRAGONFLIES: 3 YEAR OLDS

At the end of Dragonflies, students should be able to demonstrate mastery of the following material:

The mission of San Jose Christian School is to advance the kingdom of God by providing exceptional teaching and curriculum fully integrated with Biblical perspective. Within our Christian community we live to engage and transform culture for Jesus Christ.

OVERVIEW

Children are developing greater independence and emotional regulation, while using language to solve problems, ask questions, and build friendships. These children engage in imaginative play, follow multi-step directions, and show curiosity across classroom areas. They are increasingly responsible for their own care, able to use the toilet independently, and participate in classroom routines with minimal prompting. Their skills reflect readiness for more structured group learning while maintaining the play-based foundation critical for development.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Recognizes and names a variety of emotions in self and others
- Uses simple strategies to manage strong feelings (e.g., breathing, asking for help)
- Demonstrates empathy through helping or comforting peers
- Begins cooperative play and friendship-building
- Participates in group activities and follows simple group rules
- Takes turns and begins to negotiate with peers during play

LANGUAGE & LITERACY

- Uses complete sentences and descriptive language
- Engages in back-and-forth conversations with adults and peers
- Asks "why" and "how" questions to explore new ideas
- Retells parts of a story or experience using language and gestures
- Sings songs and recites familiar rhymes with accuracy
- Begins to use positional and comparative words (e.g., on, under, big, small)

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Sorts and categorizes objects by multiple attributes
- Engages in imaginative and symbolic play with increasing complexity
- Understands simple time concepts (e.g., before/after, today/tomorrow)
- Follows routines and problem-solves independently with guidance
- Enjoys simple memory games and matching activities
- Begins to understand quantity concepts (e.g., more/less, counting to 10)

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Climbs, balances, and maneuvers playground structures confidently
- Uses writing tools with increasing control and precision
- Cuts with scissors and manipulates small objects (e.g., beads, snap cubes)
- Demonstrates body awareness through movement games or group time
- Runs, hops, and begins to gallop or skip
- Strings beads, builds with interlocking blocks, and completes multi-piece puzzles

SELF-HELP & LIFE SKILLS

- Uses the toilet and washes hands independently
- Dresses self with minimal support (e.g., zipping, buttoning)
- Manages personal belongings (e.g., backpack, lunchbox)
- Begins to understand classroom expectations and routines
- Prepares own nap mat or lunch area with reminders
- Uses polite words and phrases (e.g., please, thank you, excuse me)

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN VALUES

Children engage in prayers before snack and lunch, sing joyful worship songs, crafts and are introduced to concepts like God's goodness, creation, and compassion. Teachers connect moral choices to simple Biblical truths (e.g., "God wants us to be kind").

TOILET TRAINING

By the end of this class, children are confidently using the toilet independently throughout the day. Teachers partner with families to support healthy habits and self-care routines.