**Our Curriculum**

The curriculum of Hilltop Christian School is developed around developmentally appropriate teaching practices as defined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Utah’s Early Childhood Core Standards, and Christian values. Developmentally Appropriate Practice refers to teaching children in ways that reflect how they learn and making sure that activities and learning experiences are compatible with both their intellectual and emotional developmental levels. We utilize programs such as ***Creative Curriculum.*** We also follow all guidelines and policies of the Canyons School District and Utah State Licensing.

Hilltop Christian School believes that young children learn best through a curriculum that begins with an understanding of their play. We believe that the curriculum includes the ***way*** we teach children, as much as ***what*** we teach children. Curriculum includes the goals of the program, the planned activities, daily schedule, the availability and use of materials, transition between activities, and the way in which routine tasks of living are implemented.

Children learn through direct experiences with their environment, and every child learns differently. Children can be visual, tactile, or auditory learners and we strive to provide a variety of experiences that meet all the different learning styles. For example, during free choice time a child may be able to use manipulatives to explore numbers, listen to a story, or examine different spices or plants using a magnifying glass.

Hilltop Christian School also believes that when children are having fun, they are interested, engaged, and they are learning. Using play centers is an age appropriate medium that allows the children to interact with their environment while making the process fun. Play centers also offer the children choices which gives them control over their environment. When children have choices it allows them to pick activities that are meaningful and relevant to them. These choices empower them and allow them to use materials in ways that meet their own developmental needs.

Another strong emphasis in our classrooms is making sure that interactions between staff and children are consistently positive, respectful, and nurturing. This type of interaction builds trusting relationships that give children the security to concentrate on learning and having fun. We also believe that is important to encourage positive and respectful interactions among children to create a safe environment for children to express themselves and to allow them to learn together.

Our program addresses the needs of the individual while concentrating on the whole child and taking into account all of their developmental needs.