

A PSALM ABOUT CHILDREN

Children
are God's most sacred surprise,
a light in the eyes,
a lift to the heart,
a storyline's continuation.
All: Thank You, God, for children.

Children
mirror Mystery.
Children
are God's preferred way of being,
preferred way of seeing
the world and all its people.
All: Teach us, God, through our children.

Our children
are not our children.
They are given to us
and pass through us
into worlds of their own making,
into risks of their own taking,
into futures we will not know.
All: Help us, God, to let go of our children.

Our children
are reminders
of what we like best about ourselves,
of when we knew love
that gave birth to ourselves,
of how we can live beyond ourselves.
All: Help us, God, to learn to be ourselves with our children.

When children cry,
when children die,
the whole world is diminished,
for a child's pain
is the earth's pain,
and when an innocent child is abused,
none of us is ever the same again.
All: Help us, God, to protect our children.

When children feel
they are included,
a little hope rises on all horizons,
a new dream dances in our generation
and seeds are sown for a new creation.
All: Help us, God, to grow through our children.

When children
are simply children,
filling their day with life
spilling over,
sharing love,
sharing laughter,
grabbing the whole of their
once-upon-a-time,
making us believe in
happy-ever-after,
anything is possible.

All: We live into hope, God, through our children.

All of us
are children:
children of God,
children of children,
children whose children
are children of children.

Be reconciled
to the child within,
so that love can live on
beyond us
forever.

All: We praise You, God, and we thank You in the name of all Your children.

SAINT VERONICA RAINBOW PATCH

NAME

Yes! Rainbows are in vogue! There are rainbows on billboards, road signs, gasoline storage tanks and classroom walls. The most beautiful, however, are those that stretch across the sky during a rainfall on a sunny afternoon.

The context in which it was chosen for our nursery school, however, is a reminder of God's love and of the meaning faithful friendship.

The colors of the rainbow are a reminder that every color reflects life and friendship and are important to our human existence. This is not only a symbol of God's everlasting love, but a call to each of us to love one another as friends.

*For love is colored like a rainbow
And it shines through every day
There are many colors in a rainbow
For we love in many ways.*

One of the goals of Rainbow Patch is that each of us, administration and children, grow in an awareness of God's love for us and reflect that love to all whom we meet.

PHILOSOPHY

As Sisters of the Resurrection, the philosophy of Rainbow Patch here at Saint Veronica School will follow our own Resurrection System of Education. Our aim is to prepare young children to meet the needs of the day; to give them a thirst for knowledge; and to educate the whole child: the heart, the soul, and the mind. Early childhood should be a time of fun, warmth, security, exploration and discovery!

Love is the goal of life; and therefore, our goal and aim in education. Basic to the approach of our work is God's love for us, and our love for God, which is so appealing to the heart of a little child. Once the child becomes aware of God's everlasting love, we will help him/her develop a good self-image and wholesome attitude toward his/her body and person.

Our program encourages independence and fosters individuality, helping the child to get a good start toward reaching his/her potential.

In essence, our Resurrection System can be summed up as a "pedagogy of trust". It is the prayer of the staff of Rainbow Patch that we, child and staff, entering this experience, may learn about each other and then move forward together.

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Rainbow Patch consists of two classrooms. Each is staffed by a New Jersey certified teacher and a qualified teacher assistant. The staff works together to ensure a smooth, quality, successful early program.

“Early childhood is...a period of momentous significance for all people growing up in our culture. It is during this time that children enter the social world beyond the family and establish themselves, more or less easily and successfully, as members of a community of their peers. It is during this time too that they first encounter and deal with the challenges set to them by our system of education – challenges which, for many children, are unlike any they have ever met before. By the time this period is over, children will have formed conceptions of themselves as social beings, as thinkers, and as language users, and they will have reached certain important decisions about their own worth. This places a very special responsibility on those involved in the teaching of young children during this period, either at preschool or school.

Donaldson, Grieve and Pratt, 1983

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum follows that established by the Early Childhood Council of the Diocese of Trenton. We endeavor to create a learning experience for children which is solidly based on the practices promoted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Our teachers and assistants are dedicated to providing instruction which reflects our understanding of the unique needs of each child. We wish to foster the growth of young children through responsive, high quality Early Childhood Education.

Teachers prepare an environment that consistently emphasizes learning as an interactive process. Programs provide stimulation for a wider range of interest and abilities. Activities increase in difficulty and complexity as the children develop understanding and skills. The areas of development covered in the curriculum include: religion, auditory skills, visual skills, art, music, dramatic play, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, story telling, language development, mathematical and science concepts, cooking, nutrition, safety and holidays. Outdoor experiences are also provided.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Young children have a great thirst for knowledge. How thrilling it is to be with them as they have firsthand experiences. So many things we see everyday and take for granted are marvelous discoveries to them.

In formulating goals for teachers and children, it is necessary to bear in mind that some goals are short term and others have long-range effect. Whatever the duration,

good planning is necessary. Good teaching does not just happen—it is the result of careful planning and foresight.

The following are some realistic goals for children in Rainbow Patch:

1. To help them begin to understand God’s love as they experience human love.
2. To help them understand that God made each child unique and special.
3. To provide opportunities to develop the ability to “talk to God” – to pray using their own words or simple prayers and express gratitude and praise and love for God.
4. To help them develop a good self-image and a wholesome attitude toward their bodies.
5. To give them a thirst for knowledge.
6. To help them get a good start toward reaching their potentials.
7. To provide opportunities for them to develop their whole bodies through (a) first hand experiences in social relationships, (b) physical development of large and small muscles, (c) finding acceptable outlets for their emotions, and (d) stimulating experiences which encourage them to think, analyze problems, and arrive at different possible solutions.
8. To encourage them to express themselves through materials, movement, and language by providing ample time and adequate opportunities.
9. To stimulate language development through hearing and using language.
10. To develop an awareness of the five senses.
11. To encourage independence.
12. To help them increase their knowledge by asking questions and exploring their environment, and to help them develop a sense of curiosity through providing ample firsthand experiences.
13. To give them some basic experiences for future learning.
14. To provide experiences with other children of the same age.
15. To meet their needs as individuals and as a group.
16. To encourage them to develop a positive attitude toward school and learning.
17. To help them know that there are friendly adults outside the home.
18. To provide some experiences which they do not have at home.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL DO IN RAINBOW PATCH

Each day at Rainbow Patch we focus on God’s love of our family, friends and neighbors. We will integrate the love God has for us in all parts of the curriculum. Throughout the day we also:

- Pray together
- Discover the joy of learning to work and play with others
- Develop good listening skills
- Take field trips
- Learn to follow simple directions and take turns
- Increase our vocabulary
- Sing many songs, listen, and move to music
- Work on letter recognition and some letter writing

- Learn to express ourselves through various art media
- Participate in programs that promote good health habits
- Play games
- Use various school equipment
- Learn some very basic math concepts
- Have fun

GENERAL INFORMATION

Three Year Old:	Tuesday and Thursday
Four Year Old:	Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Monday through Friday
Morning Sessions:	9:15 – 11:45 (RBP 3’s & 4’s)
Full day Sessions:	9:15 – 3:15 (RBP 4’s)

Please note, Rainbow Patch is not affected by the school’s schedule regarding half-days, **except the day before Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.**

In Rainbow Patch, the children are encouraged to:

- Express themselves and communicate with others.
- Form basic concepts that help them understand their world.
- Develop self-confidence.
- Make new friends.
- Share and co-operate with others.
- Develop physical skills.
- Develop a positive attitude to learning.
- Participate in pre-reading, writing and mathematical activities.
- Be responsible for themselves and their belongings.
- Be responsible for their own behavior and make sensible choices.
- Relate to other adults.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In case of inclement weather, follow St. Veronica School closing policy. Please listen to radio stations **WJLK (1310 AM OR 94.3 FM) or WOBF (92.7 FM)**. If the school is having a delayed opening, please follow this schedule:

Morning Sessions:	11:00 – 1:00
Full Day Sessions:	11:00 – 3:30

You will be notified by your class mother of school delays or closings.

TUITION

Families may pay their tuition bill in one of three ways:

1. Full payment by August 1st.
2. Three equal payments: August 1st, November 1st and February 1st.
3. Through the F.A.C.T.S. Tuition Payment Plan.

ENTRANCE

Parents are to use the back parking lot, walk to the back of the building to the Rainbow Patch entrance. **Do not** park in the rear of the building. **THIS IS FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY.** Thank you.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES

Please try to drop off and pick up your child on time. This makes daily planning and staffing much easier. More importantly, it makes it easier for your child's adjustment to preschool. If you are going to be late in picking up your child, **please make every effort to let us know ahead of time**, so that we can let your child know. Our school phone number is (732) 364-4130. Persons not on the list you give us **will not be permitted** to pick up your child. This is for our protection as well as yours.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at preschool is essential so that the child can maximize the programs available. If there is a change in the child's routine that will affect his/her attendance at preschool, please notify the staff.

Please ensure that your child is on time to preschool as lateness can stress young children and can disrupt the preschool program that has already begun.

HEALTH & HYGIENE POLICIES

All children must be toilet trained to come to preschool.

If your child should become sick, the staff will notify you first, if this fails, we will notify a nominated emergency contact person to collect the child.

ABSENCE

Should you decide to keep your child home from preschool, please contact the office (732) 364-4130 before his/her usual arrival time to let us know. If, for some

reason, you cannot contact us before the usual arrival time, please call as soon as you can. **You should not send your child to preschool if he/she has a fever, is sneezing and coughing, or has any contagious disease such as diarrhea, the flu or any of the childhood diseases.**

When a child is absent, please send a note to the teacher noting the reason of the absence.

HEALTH CERTIFICATION

New Jersey State Board of Health requires that we keep a health record on your child. This form is to be in the hands of the school within 30 days from your child's admission to class.

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

We recommend that children dress comfortably. Please try to provide clothing that can be easily managed by small children as they will be encouraged to help themselves. Also their clothes will be subject to paint, glue, sand and water. The children will be playing on the playground equipment and on equipment during the Perceptual Motor program, so clothing needs to be organized with these activities in mind.

Footwear needs to be appropriate for the many activities indoor and outdoors at preschool. Footwear that the children can manage by themselves is best. Sneakers, shoes, trainers, joggers, sandals with soft rubber soles are recommended. **NO FLIP-FLOPS, SCUFFS or SLIP ONS** are to be worn in preschool.

All coats, jackets and sweaters should be labeled with your child's name.

Please pack in a large zip-lock bag an extra set of underwear, socks, and pants in case of emergencies.

Backpacks: We do send home papers and artwork almost every day and the children should have a regular sized backpack to hold everything.

CLASS TRIPS

Various trips are planned during the year. The purpose of these trips include giving the child first hand experiences as they learn about the world around them; to help them have a "group" experience; to help build good relationships with other children and adults; to increase their frame of reference; to help them become more aware of things around them through observation; to develop initiative and creativity in dramatic play; to have fun! Health and safety are utmost as the teachers plan an excursion.

The times and dates of these trips will be made known to you well in advance. Parents are asked to volunteer as drivers for shorter trips. Please understand these are school trips, and **siblings are not permitted to attend**.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays may be celebrated in class. We ask that you provide cupcakes, cookies or ice-cream; something that will not be too messy for teachers to distribute to the children.

SNACKS

Daily snacks will be supplied by Rainbow Patch. Please notify the teacher of any allergies.

SUPPORTIVE PARENT POLICY

Rainbow Patch is built upon the assumption that educating your child is a team effort with teachers and parents working together in support of each other. This supportive relationship must be in place for education at Rainbow Patch to work. You have made a commitment to support the faculty and staff of Rainbow Patch and trust in their ability to provide the best education for your child(ren). This would include the willingness to practice *Matthew 18*-throughout the communication process, which means talking with teachers and administrators about concerns you have, rather than other parents and community members.

COMMUNICATION

To facilitate the smooth running of Rainbow Patch, we look forward to open communication between staff and parents.

Communication is usually by the way of:

1. A notice board by the front of the entrance to the preschool.
2. Regular monthly newsletters to keep you informed on relevant information.
3. Letters as needed.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

P.T.A. Meetings will be held each month in St. Veronica School Cafeteria. The dates and times will be made known in our weekly communication packet. Parents of Rainbow Patch children are encouraged to attend.

Regular parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled for you during the year. If you feel a need to discuss your child with the teacher, please feel free to make an appointment.

PARENTAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the Parent/Caregiver's responsibility to:

- Read all the information relating to Rainbow Patch in order to be familiar with our policies, routines and practices.
- Comply with relevant health and hygiene policies.
- Participate in and support our programs.
- Discuss problems and grievances with the teacher-in-charge.
- Notify the preschool staff of any changes relating to address, phone number and emergency contact phone numbers.

PREPARING FOR PRESCHOOL

Even after you've made the decision to send your child to preschool, most parents have a period of questioning before that first day. What if he/she is not ready to leave me yet? What if he/she says a bad word, or hits another child? What if he/she cries the whole time? And what if...

Starting preschool is a new and different experience for both parents and children and will take some adjustment on both parts. It is perfectly normal to feel a bit apprehensive. Your child's teachers are available to talk to you about any questions you may have.

Sometimes preschool is the first time a child will be away from home on a regular basis. That's a BIG step! Children will be excited about this new adventure, but also a little anxious. For this reason, it is very important to talk with your child about preschool before it is actually time for him/her to go. To adults, children are frightened about the most unreasonable things. For example, some children are afraid that they will be abandoned at preschool never to see home again! Explain to your child that they are going to preschool, where you will be while they are there, what they will be doing during the day, and when you will be picking them up. Even if your child does not seem to be listening, he/she is! It will be a few weeks before your child will adjust to his/her new schedule. Children may be more irritable during this time. Continue to be firm, but assuring and make sure daily routines are consistent.

Parents are required to attend Orientation which will make you aware of preschool procedures, and give you other important information.

THOSE FIRST DAYS

During the first few days of preschool, your child may experience what is called **separation anxiety**. He/she may cry and cling to you, begging you not to go. Leaving Rainbow Patch at this time is one of the most difficult things you will have to do. Again,

this is a **big step** for a child and they need your help to get through it. Just as going to the doctor can be a scary experience, so can preschool. As parents, you need to remind yourselves that children do not always know what is best for them. We have found that the longer parents/guardians prolong their separation the more difficult it is for the children to adjust to the classroom setting. Once this separation issue is dealt with, **your child will love preschool**. It helps to talk to parents whose children are already in the program. They have lived through this and can be of great support to you. Even the hardest criers usually settle down a few minutes after parents leave. However, if you get home and still need a little reassurance, **PLEASE CALL!** The staff will tell you how your child is doing and ease your mind.

As the year progresses, your child will be more comfortable with us. We would like to help foster within him/her a sense of independence. By Christmas time you should not need to stay with your child for a long period at arrival time. We would appreciate your allowing your child to begin his/her daily routine, taking off coats, etc. with the assistance of the teacher and assistants.

We are here to provide quality education and care for your child. Please do not hesitate to talk to us about how your child is progressing. We hope that your year will be a happy one, as we share the joys of helping to raise your child.

If you have any concerns please see me at a time suitable for both of us. Positive comments and feedback are important to us. We look forward to our association with you and your child this year.