



# School Early Learning Programs

## Ages Birth – 5 years

### Early Learning Programs

**School Early Learning Program (SELP)** is defined as a program under the purview of the Catholic school catering to students ages birth to 5 years to include classes for infants through PK4. SELPs are not to serve only as child-care centers, but provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally-appropriate activities.

Children build skills quickly in the first five years of life. The brain grows fast in babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Language blooms, and thinking is more developed. Young children also gain crucial social and emotional skills that let them interact with other people.

#### Birth to eighteen months

In the first eighteen months, an infant makes miraculous progress; seeing the world through senses. They gather information through touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound. To help infants mature and learn, they should be stimulated but not overwhelmed. The overall goal is not to “teach” but to interact and explore the world with them. Older infants are on the move; they take great pleasure in discovering what they can do with their voice, hands, feet, and toes. Soon they practice rolling skills, crawling, walking, and other great physical adventures.

#### Eighteen months through two years

During the next stage of life, the child is beginning to define him/herself. Plan activities that spur the imagination and vocabulary.

#### Three through five years

During the preschool years, children will be incredibly busy. Cutting, pasting, painting, and singing are all daily activities. Activities should include learning numbers, letters, and simple directions. Students should be actively engaged in multi-sensory activities. These activities should be student-centered, inquiry-based, hands-on and explorative.

### GENERAL ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) outlined in the Bright from the Start program for the State of Georgia - <http://gelds.decal.ga.gov/Default.aspx>

Academic Program Selected by the Diocese of Savannah:

We Can – Voyager Sopris

[https://www.voyagersopris.com/docs/default-source/literacy/we-can/natl\\_wecan\\_overview.pdf](https://www.voyagersopris.com/docs/default-source/literacy/we-can/natl_wecan_overview.pdf)

### RELIGION STANDARDS

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - <https://www.cgsusa.org/>

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