

IS MY CHILD READY FOR *Early Learning* AT SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

A smooth and successful early learning experience is a beginning-of-the-year goal for all students entering into the Saint Patrick Catholic School Early Learning Center (SPCS ELC). Children attending the SPCS ELC need to have basic skills mastered in order to ensure a safe and happy learning environment for all students. Is your child ready for preschool, not a daycare environment? Are they ready for an academic program with transitions? Can they adapt to a schedule? As you look forward to this exciting step in your child's life, please give consideration to the following:

- **Basic Independence:** Is your child bathroom-independent (wearing cloth underwear and experiencing infrequent accidents)? Can your child handle simple tasks independently, such as washing hands, using the restroom, eating with minimal assistance, and putting on shoes or a coat?
- **Separation Comfort:** Can your child comfortably separate from parents or caregivers without excessive anxiety, indicating they feel secure in new environments?
- **Basic Communication Skills:** Does your child express needs, wants, and feelings through words, gestures, or simple sentences, allowing them to communicate with teachers and peers?
- **Following Simple Instructions:** Can your child follow simple directions and routines, such as tidying up toys, lining up, or listening to a short story?
- **Social Interaction:** Does your child show interest in playing with or alongside other children, sharing, taking turns, and participating in group activities?
- **Emotional Regulation:** Is your child beginning to manage emotions like frustration, anger, or sadness in age-appropriate ways, such as using words instead of physical actions when upset?
- **Curiosity and Enthusiasm for Learning:** Does your child show interest in exploring new things, asking questions, and engaging in activities like drawing, building, or looking at books?
- **Basic Fine Motor Skills:** Can your child perform basic tasks involving small muscles, such as holding a crayon, using child-safe scissors, or assembling simple puzzles?
- **Attention Span:** Does your child focus on a task or activity for a few minutes at a time, such as listening to a short story, working on a craft, or playing with toys?
- **Self-Control:** Is your child developing impulse control, like waiting their turn, listening to others, or managing minor disappointments without meltdowns?

These traits help ensure a smoother transition into the structured, social, and learning-rich environment of the SPCS ELC, setting the foundation for future academic and social success.