

Pre-K Curriculum

Quality Pre-K programs have been shown to lead to important growth in children's intellectual and social development which is critical in future academic success.

Our objective is to engage children in thinking, reasoning and communicating with others. With teacher direction and guidance, the children will respond to this challenge to acquire important skills and concepts within a comprehensive curriculum.

It is our goal, to ensure that all 3 and 4 year old children have the opportunity to strive toward these goals. Due to the age differences and previous experiences, some will be at the beginning of the learning continuum, while others will be further along.

Using the following guidelines, the Pre-K children enrolled at Kiddie Garden will have equal opportunities to be successful while developing necessary skills at his/her own pace.

Language and Early Literacy

The children will interact with responsive adults and peers in a language rich environment. They will develop vocabulary, extend language skills, listening comprehension and phonemic awareness. The teacher will:

1. Motivate students to want to read.
2. Encourage children to develop appreciation for books.
3. Share stories on tape as well as read aloud.
4. Exchange conversations with children.
5. Routinely explain the importance of following oral directions.
6. Encourage and teach role play.
7. Teach students to vocalize and pronounce sounds and words that rhyme.
8. Encourage sentences with 3+ words.
9. Use language to express daily routines and expect the same from children.
10. Encourage children to ask questions and comment on circle time discussions and otherwise.
11. Teach beginning sounds of words.
12. Help children to understand difference between letters and numbers.
13. Teach an understanding that print carries a message and to recognize print forms in the environment.

14. Encourage children to look at pictures in books and teach that illustrations have meaning.
15. Educate children about the parts of a book including the cover, author and illustrator.
16. Teach left to right and top to bottom progression when reading a book.
17. Recognize spacing between words.
18. Understand different text forms – shopping lists, recipes, newspapers, letters, etc.
19. Associate name of letter to its shape.
20. Introduce upper and lower case letters.
21. Identify some letters (10+).
22. Match letters to sounds.
23. Teach potentially early readers some high frequency words.
24. Have children attempt to write messages using inventive spelling.

Mathematics

The children will build curiosity and enthusiasm while exploring ideas about patterns and relationships, order and predictability, logic and meaning. The teacher will:

1. Introduce number patterns, measurement, shapes, space and classification.
2. Introduce one-to-one correspondence and arranging sets.
3. Count by one's to 10.
4. Teach counting objects up to 5.
5. Include lessons that compare numbers (same, equal, more than, less than).
6. Have children name how many in a group.
7. Teach the concept of zero.
8. Identify the first and last in a series.
9. Teach patterns with sounds, physical movement and attributes.
10. Reproduce and extend simple patterns made with links, cubes, etc.
11. Teach shapes (circle, square, triangle and rectangle).
12. Introduce prepositional words like inside, behind, above, below, etc.
13. Do puzzles with increasing complexity.
14. Use pattern blocks to cover like shapes.
15. Compare sizes of objects in the classroom.
16. Categorize time in everyday situations ("after snack").
17. Teach sizes using small, medium and large and teach size order using a variety of objects and shapes.
18. Match like objects and sort them into groups.

Science

Young children are natural scientists. They develop skills by asking questions, gathering information and communicating their findings. At school, they will use their senses and some common tools to collect information that will help them learn about the world. Teachers will use hands on experiences to increase their understanding of the natural world. The teacher will:

1. Teach safety of materials used in the classroom.
2. Frequently ask questions about objects and events.
3. Use sense to learn about objects and describe observations.
4. Explore pouring with cups or spoons in the sand and water table.
5. Sort living and nonliving objects.
6. Investigate the life cycle of a ladybug and a butterfly in the spring.
7. Encourage children to make predictions based on past experiences.
8. Identify plants and animals.
9. Dress the weather bear.

Social Studies

Pre-K children must learn skills of communicating, problem solving, sharing, cooperating and participating with others. It is necessary for the class group to function successfully. The teacher will:

1. Develop and enforce class rules that include cooperating and sharing with others in the class.
2. Encourage team work and cooperation during assigned and unassigned tasks.
3. Children are encouraged to participate in class activities and discussions.
4. Participate in class jobs.
5. Take turns listening and speaking.
6. Identify similarities and differences between self and others through song and discussion.
7. Categorize events by today, tomorrow and yesterday using calendar on bulletin board.
8. Teach days of the week and months of the year including children's birthday months at circle time on a daily basis.
9. Connect past events with present.
10. Develop understanding of cause and effect (go out in rain-you will get wet).
11. Teach recognition of school features by touring school, and engaging in lessons in various parts of the building.
12. Draw pictures of the child's house and add landscape and people.

13. Teach address' using song and flash cards.
14. Understand the roles of family members in family unit and community helpers in the fall.

Fine Arts

Through art, music and dramatic play, the children will be taught problem solving techniques and strategies to express their own ideas. The students will use a wide variety of materials to discover color, shape and textures. They will gain control of fine motor muscles and eye-hand coordination. The teacher will:

1. Expose children to a wide variety of mediums including crayon, various paints, markers, clay, etc.
2. Encourage self-expression.
3. Encourage children to show an interest in the artwork of others.

The children will express themselves through music and movement by playing simple instruments and exposure to a large variety of musical styles. The appreciation and engagement in different types of music is important and the teacher will:

1. Encourage participation in musical activities.
2. Sing simple songs daily as a part of circle, transition, hello, goodbye, snack time, etc.
3. Play class instruments with children.
4. Respond to music through movement.
5. Teach different sounds of different instruments and encourage children to make distinctions.

Children will be involved in expressive communication. Engaging in cooperative play and dress-up are pivotal parts of a preschooler's day. The teacher will:

1. Encourage children to express feelings. Teach the correct phrases and responses to communicate.
2. Recreate stories.
3. Engage in role playing with students as follow-up to a story or theme.
4. Develop a play center with dress-up clothes and furniture.

Health and Safety

Healthy habits and routines are promoted at preschool. The basic concepts of nutrition, hygiene and physical activity contribute to the well being of children. Safe schools are decorated with age appropriate furniture, toys and decorations. They are also equipped with the proper

safety equipment (fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, security doors, etc.).
The teacher will:

1. Encourage children to become aware of the routines of healthy behaviors (brushing teeth, washing hands).
2. Teach children to turn faucets on and off and flush toilets.
3. Refine the use of eating utensils.
4. Teach children to open drinking straws and snack packages.
5. Recognize healthy foods.
6. Encourage simple table manners for safety purposes (all four chair legs on the floor, feet in front of chair, chew food well, etc.).
7. Teach the danger of fire during fire prevention week and when appropriate to another lesson.
8. Encourage children to respond appropriately to fire drills.
9. Teach children how to get help from an adult that's not a stranger.
10. Teach telephone numbers and 9-1-1.
11. Reward appropriate actions around potentially dangerous, everyday tools (stove, knives, fire place, etc.).

Personal and Social Skills

We are enabling children to function well within a social classroom setting. Our job is to help them develop a sense of who they are and what their capabilities are. The teachers will aide in establishing positive relationships and to enable the children to effectively participate in the classroom and the community. The teacher will:

1. Develop a sense of personal space.
2. Encourage self-control.
3. Give consequences for inappropriate behaviors and hold children responsible for his/her own actions.
4. Increase the control of intense feelings of anger and excessive crying.
5. Encourage sharing and cooperating with others.
6. Teach respect of other people's space and belongings by introducing show and tell.
7. Help children develop friendships.
8. Encourage children to express thoughts, feelings and ideas and respond to those of classmates.

Physical Development

Participating in experiences that foster fundamental motor and movement skills which are necessary for participation in games and sports throughout life are part of the daily routine. Developing gross motor skills that involve throwing and catching, kicking, precision and accuracy of

movement take place on a regular basis as does the reinforcement of daily fine motor skills (jacket zippering, snack opening, writing, etc.). The teacher will:

1. Teach body parts.
2. Encourage movement within space of defined boundaries.
3. Use alphabet carpet to identify child's space to move.
4. Teach children to become more able to move in different ways like running, jumping, hopping, galloping, skipping, etc.
5. Become more able to move in place (reaching, twisting, turning and bending).
6. Move in rhythm to music and direction.
7. Participate in group games and activities.
8. Play throw and catch games with bean bags and balls.
9. Coordinate arm and leg movements.
10. Throw and kick in specific directions.
11. Develop and encourage children to use the pincer grasp.
12. Teach self-help skills.
13. Encourage children to hold writing tools with fingers, not fist.
14. Encourage children to trace lines and write his/her first name with assistance and gradually write it independently.
15. Teach the use of scissors.