

What will my child learn?

Reading/Language Arts

Language is the basis of all communication. Language learning is an active process that begins at birth and continues throughout life. Children learn language through its use. In kindergarten, students participate in shared listening, reading, and viewing experiences using picture books, fairy tales, stories, photographs, illustrations and video programs. They share stories using rhymes rhythms, symbols, pictures, and drama to celebrate accomplishments. Students draw, record, and tell about their ideas and experiences and participate in group language activities. They predict and ask questions, and represent and share ideas and information about topics of interest. They form pictures, represent and share ideas and information. They form recognizable letters, print their own names, and explore and experiment with new words and terms.



Mathematics

Mathematics is an academic area that is increasing in importance in our advancing, technological society. Becoming mathematically literate is essential to problem solving. Kindergarten students explore numbers, patterns, shape and space, and data analysis by working with appropriate materials and tools. They count and compare objects, demonstrate awareness of addition and subtraction through role playing and the use of manipulative. They identify and create patterns and learn about measuring, classifying, matching, describing and comparing. Kindergarten students describe, sort, and build real-world objects, and learn to collect and organize information.



Social Studies and Environmental Awareness

Students explore, investigate, and describe their environment and community by asking questions, solving problems, and using their senses. They identify familiar shapes, symbols, and sounds, and recognize similarities and differences in living things, objects, and materials. Kindergarten students explore the design, function, and properties of a variety of natural and manufactured materials. They explore scientific concepts using sand, water, blocks, clay, and other materials, and begin to use technology appropriately.

Students become aware of diversity in the uniqueness of self and others. They begin to talk about feelings and emotions. They learn about homes, family, familiar places, and people who work and help in the community. Students learn to recognize seasonal changes, colors and shapes in the environment, and familiar animals in their surroundings.

Children need to learn how to express their feelings in acceptable ways and to show respect and positive caring toward others. Kindergarten students learn these things by taking turns in activities and discussions, working cooperatively, giving and receiving help, and taking part in small and large group activities.

Physical Skills

Physical activity is important to normal growth and development. Five-year-olds need assistance to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that will lead to frequent physical activity. Health and life skills involve learning about the habits and behaviors that lead to healthy daily living and well-being. In kindergarten, students begin to develop personal responsibility for health and learn about personal safety and ways to prevent and reduce risk. Through movement, games, and activities using equipment such as balls, beanbags, jump ropes, a balance beam, and hoops, children develop coordinated movement and balance.



These activities improve not only the gross (large motor skills), but strengthen fine motor skills. Students learn to hold a writing implement and control its movement. Eye-hand coordination increases as students work with small materials, such as buttons, cubes, blocks and beads. By participating in physical activity, by becoming aware of healthy food choices and by learning to observe safety rules, students develop attitudes and practice behaviors that promote an active, healthy lifestyle.



Creative Expression

Kindergarten children explore and express their thoughts and feelings through the visual arts, music, drama, and movement. By viewing and responding to everyday objects and artworks children learn about how we see and interpret visual images. Children express themselves through movement and individual and group musical activities, songs, and games. They listen to and begin to appreciate a variety of musical instruments and different kinds of music. Through dramatic play and movement, children grow in self-awareness and self-confidence and develop their imaginative and creative thought. The arts help students connect their own experiences with forms of artistic expression in the world around them. Finally, students begin to recognize diverse family and cultural traditions and the contributions the arts make to these traditions.

