

## KINDERGARTEN OVERVIEW

Our kindergarten philosophy incorporates a balance between the importance of a strong reading and math curriculum to prepare them for first grade, and the importance of both structured and free-flowing social interaction and play time. Teaching them the Truths of God's Word and the application of those to their lives as 5 and 6-year-olds is also paramount. In addition, we expose them to the basics of Social Studies and Science, as well as music, art and other enrichment activities.

Kindergarteners grow and develop dramatically over the course of their first school year and while they are generally ready to be at school all day, they aren't ready for an academic focus all day. Knowing this, we structure their day and year accordingly. Their ability to stay focused and ready to learn increases over time so our expectations of them increases over time as well. We also believe it is imperative for them to have a very safe, positive, fun and engaging experience in kindergarten as it will set the stage for the remainder of their school experience. Below is a basic description of our kindergarten program.

- Monday-Thursday from 8:30-2:30
- Fridays from 8:30-12:00
- Focuses on making learning fun, engaging, and active
- Incorporates multi-sensory and hands-on learning in all subject areas
- Utilize Zoo-Phonics for Reading/Language Arts
- Utilize ACSI for Math and Bible
- Language Arts, Math & Bible taught in the morning
- Mid-morning structured snack & recess time
- Intentional social interaction & play time in the afternoon
- Fridays include enrichment, chapels, field trips, etc
- Quiet, rest time after lunch recess
- Social Studies, Science, and more Reading incorporated into the afternoons
- Afternoons also include enrichment activities, another scheduled recess, and PE
- Afternoon free-play time is also schedule

## KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

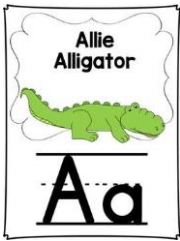
We have invested in what we consider to be the best, most effective curriculum available that is consistent with our philosophy of education that is also either biblically-based or does not conflict with our biblical values. Our curriculum was chosen because it is proven highly effective, offers a multi-sensory learning approach, and is engaging.

### Bible:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) kindergarten program focuses on lessons from both the Old and New Testaments emphasizing God's care. There are cross-curricular connections with other academic subjects and music and memory verses are integrated into lessons. It includes a student workbook that offers daily real-life applications and engaging student activities.



## Language Arts:



Zoo-phonics is used throughout the US and internationally as a highly effective language arts program. It utilizes a kinesthetic, multi-modal approach in learning all aspects of language arts including vocabulary development and articulation, based on phonics and phonemic awareness. Using a whole brain approach, it makes children strong readers and spellers using all of their senses – hearing, seeing, speaking, moving and touching. Zoo-phonics maximizes understanding, memory, utilization and transference to all areas of the reading, spelling, and writing process in a playful and concrete manner. The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum is also used to begin teaching students the basics of good writing.

## Handwriting:

We supplement Zoo-Phonics with Foundations manuscript handwriting instruction, providing step-by-step directions and practice for learning correct and consistent letter formation for both lower- and upper-case letters.



## Math:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) kindergarten program utilizes lessons with hands-on activities, conceptual understanding, problem solving, application, modeling, reasoning, and strands of algebra and geometry. Kindergartners focus on classifying and sorting, exploring patterns, counting and matching, identifying, writing, and exploring numbers 0-31, counting numbers to 100, skip counting, solids, shapes, and equal parts, money, time, measurement, and discovering addition and subtraction. A variety of manipulatives are integral to their learning along with strong emphasis in skill development and concept mastery. There is an emphasis on a STEM interdisciplinary approach, which integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in hands-on and relevant learning opportunities.



## Social Studies & Science:

Mystery Science, along with a variety of resources are used to provide a basic exposure to primary, age-appropriate topics such as family, local community, community helpers, plants, animals, life-cycles, weather patterns, etc.

