



## KINDERGARTEN OVERVIEW

Our kindergarten philosophy incorporates a balance between the importance of a strong reading, writing, 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 Foundations for Phonics & Reading
- Utilize Big Ideas Math and ACSI for 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, 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.



## Phonics, Reading, Spelling, & Handwriting:



Fundations, by Wilson Language, is used from K-2, and brings more than a decade of research-based materials and strategies essential for a comprehensive phonics, spelling, and handwriting program. It utilizes a structured literacy approach to make learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for lifelong literacy. The program's research-based approach and extensive materials allow teachers to confidently present a carefully structured reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum using engaging, multisensory techniques. It develops foundational skills in phonemic awareness, phonics and word studies, high frequency word study, reading fluency, comprehension strategies as well as handwriting and spelling. Level K Foundations provides early learners with a structured literacy approach to develop sound- and word-level skills so they progress into proficient readers and writers. Students are placed in reading groups based on their reading level. Wilson Foundations makes learning to read fun and ensures no student "falls through the cracks".

## Writing:

The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum is used to begin teaching students the basics of good writing. Kindergarten is primarily pre-writing, and therefore almost entirely oral and visual interaction between the teacher and student slowly progressing until they are ready to write. It is designed for the teacher to introduce literature by reading, and encouraging students to learn and retell, nursery rhymes and basic stories. They also begin to develop comprehension skills, and are introduced to terminology students will need for later writing. Good writing is modeled for students by the teacher. The goal in kindergarten is to encourage expression and create a safe and effective writing environment, as well as learning to differentiate between different types of poems, identifying the elements of a story, and build patterns of rhythm and rhyme. Kindergarten students will also be introduced, and challenged to identify, basic awareness of sentence structure, parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation in the literature they are exposed to.



## Math:

Big Ideas Math, Modeling Real Life is a rigorous program that provides a balance of three important building blocks. These are: (1) Conceptual Understanding-Discovering why; (2) Procedural Fluency-Learning how; and (3) Application-Knowing when to apply what has been learned and applying it to real life. Newton and Descartes are a dog and cat team of math assistants who encourage students to think deeply about math concepts and develop strong mathematical mindsets. Music, games, and hands-on manipulatives help ensure that math is both fun and understandable. In Kindergarten, students learn to count, compare, and write numbers to 20, compose and decompose numbers to 10, add and subtract numbers within 10, count to 100, identify two-and three-dimensional shapes and positions, and measure and compare objects.



## Social Studies & Science:

Mystery Science, along with a variety of other 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.

