

NURSERY CURRICULUM

Pre-school Literacy

Phonological skills are taught with a focus on phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness skills such as sound discrimination, blending, unblending and sound manipulation are emphasized first through games and later through manipulation of blocks and pictures of mouth forms for sounds. In the Nursery and K1, activities based on Phonemic awareness are used to provide fun and stimulating interactions with syllables and sounds.

Throughout the pre-school program, students are exposed to books. Teachers share books with students and model reading behavior. They teach the students that there is a structure to a written story. Through the use of predictable text, the students are taught to discuss and generate sentences in response to the story.

Phonemic Awareness

Children are taught these skills through short, activities. Children learn:

1. To tell the difference between two sounds that are similar and are easily confused.
2. To identify words that begin or end with a specific sound
3. To take apart a word provided by the teacher
4. To put together the sounds provided by the teacher to create a word
5. To add, delete, or change a sound within a word.

Receptive Language: Understands 2 step directions, Understands contrasting concepts and Is able to discriminate between environmental sounds.

Expressive Language: Uses more words in vocabulary, use of 1 – 3 word expressions (name or characteristic).

Math:

Nursery follows the Growing with Mathematics program which is based on exploration, discovery and communication.

The program provides a multi-sensory approach that introduces math concepts at a concrete level. Manipulatives and practical activities allow the children to build upon their understanding. The discussion books, activity books and math literature give children the opportunities to apply this understanding in an abstract level. Additional activities that provide extra help, practice and challenge are available to cater to the range of abilities and needs of the students.

Number and operation – count with understanding and recognize how many in sets of objects. Connect numerals to the quantities they represent using various manipulatives. Able to order numbers up to 10 in the correct sequence.

Sorting and Classification - Use of manipulatives constructively to sort objects of various attributes. Sort, classify and order objects by size, number and other properties like big or small, short or tall.

Space and Shape- recognize, name, build, draw, compare and sort two and three dimensional shapes.

Temperature - be able to describe the temperature using the appropriate vocabulary such as hot,

Measurement – predict which two objects are heavier and check their properties by holding the objects. Explore questions on passage of days and weather while working with the calendar.

Designs and Patterns - Recognize simple patterns and follow them.

Thematic Studies

The students are introduced to various topics throughout the year. They learn about the specific topic for two months. Each topic consists of specific goals and objectives. The following topics are discussed and explored during the course of the year.

September & October: All about me – Family and friends

Different nationalities, grandparents.

Faces: each one is special and unique

Parts of the face- link to senses.

Self portraits

November & December: Animals – Insects and Creepy Crawlies

How insects move.

Characteristics of insects, habits and habitat

What insects eat.

January & February: Food – Plants

Introduction to parts of a plant

How do plants grow?

What is necessary for plants to grow?

Texture and color of the parts of a plant

Sizes and uses of plants.

March & April: The world around us – Community Helpers

Community Helpers

Who are the community helpers?

Why do we need community helpers?

How to do community service

Who is a fireman, policeman, doctor, mailman, teacher, baker etc

May & June: Popular Children's books and authors

Simms Taback- Joseph had a little overcoat

Steve Sanfield- Bit by Bit

Phoebe Gilman- Something from Nothing

Laura Numeroff: If you give a mouse a cookie

If you give a moose a muffin

If you give a pig a pancake

If you take a mouse to school