

Kindergarten Curriculum Themes

Our curriculum themes in kindergarten grow from the overall concept of community. By starting the year learning about “Myself and Others” and “The Five Senses” children are able to further their own self-concept and self-esteem, to learn more about their classmates and new friends, and to articulate basic observation strategies that we will use in science for the rest of the year. We journey outward from there, shifting the focus from ourselves to our families, our friendships, our communities, and our world. All the while, we foster cooperation and cohesiveness, without which all other academic learning would be difficult to accomplish.

Interwoven into the foundations of community are many other more specific themes and skill-based units of study, especially within our Reading, Writing, and Math Workshops. In addition, the children tell us who they are, what they know, and what they want to learn. They guide the curriculum and require us to be flexible in our planning. Therefore, changes may be made in some of the sequencing or timing of certain segments of the curriculum. Within our broad curriculum themes and play during Choice Time, student interest determines the specific topic we study. For example, when we study community, will we make an ice cream shop...or a barber shop? It is always interesting to start out the year with our curriculum plans in place, and then see how events of the school year and the children themselves extend it in new and unforeseen directions!

During the 2011-2012 school year, our Kindergarten Team will also be using lessons from the *Explorations in Art* curriculum to replace and supplement our usual lessons in writing, reading, math, and science. This is a new project for us, and we are excited to use the visual arts as a tool to engage and motivate students in their academic pursuits!

Junior Kindergarten

| September | October | November | December |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: How we are alike and different • Science: Nature/Fall • Literacy: Friends and Feelings • Math: Colors and Shapes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Ways we travel around the world • Science: Nature/Hibernation • Literacy: Speaking and listening • Math: Sorting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Things we eat around the world • Science: Nature/Harvest • Literacy: Vocabulary and background knowledge • Math: One to one counting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Celebrations of light • Science: Building • Literacy: Comprehension of stories • Math: Patterns |
| January | February | March | April |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Places we live • Science: Building • Literacy: Interest in books • Math: Sequencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Jobs • Science: Building • Literacy: Book handling/knowledge • Math: Lengths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Jobs • Science: Water—flow • Literacy: Knowledge of text structure • Math: Games | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Jobs • Science: Water—sinking and floating • Literacy: Phonological/phonemic awareness • Math: Base 10 |
| May/June | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Jobs • Science: Water pressure • Literacy: Emergent writing • Math: Writing number symbols | | | |

Senior Kindergarten

| September | October | November | December |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Classroom Community, Friendship • Science: Myself & Others • Writing: Storytelling, Sketchbooks, and Handwriting • Reading: Our Reading Community; Names, Letters, and Rhymes • Math: <i>Who is in School today?</i> (classroom routines and materials) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Teamwork, Feelings • Science: Myself and Others; Autumn and Nature • Writing: Drawing and Writing Books (Drawing Focus) • Reading: Making Connections; Initial Sounds and Symbols • Math: <i>Who is in School today?</i> cont'd; begin <i>Counting & Comparing</i> (Measurement & the Number System) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Families & Diversity • Science: Our 5 Senses • Writing: Drawing and Writing Books (Writing Focus) • Reading: Retelling; Matching Letters to Sounds and Pointing to Words • Math: <i>Counting & Comparing</i> cont'd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Celebrations • Science: Emergent Unit (to practice using the inquiry cycle and 5 senses) • Writing: Drawing and Writing Books (Writing Focus) • Reading: Retelling; First and Last Letters, Words, and Sounds • Math: <i>Measuring and Counting</i> (Measurement & the Number System 2) |
| January | February | March | April |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Fairy Tales From Around the World • Science: Sand and Water • Writing: Introducing Booklets • Reading: Exploring Fiction and Drama; Getting Ready to Read By Myself • Math: <i>Measuring and Counting</i> cont'd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Black History Month • Science: Sand and Water • Writing: Introducing Booklets • Reading: Exploring Fiction and Drama; Getting Ready to Read By Myself • Math: <i>Make a Shape, Build a Block</i> (2D/3D Geometry) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Organisms (Plants) • Social Studies: Recycling and the Environment • Writing: Writer's Craft and Reflection • Reading: Visualizing; Expressive Ways to Read and Reading By Myself • Math: <i>How many do you have?</i> (addition/subtraction) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Organisms (Plants, Snails, Beetles) • Social Studies: Recycling and the Environment • Writing: Writer's Craft and Reflection; Poetry • Reading: Poetry; Expressive Ways to Read and Reading By Myself • Math: <i>How many do you have?</i> cont'd |
| May/June | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies: Jobs and Economics (also integrated into dramatic play throughout the year) • Science: Organisms (characteristics of living and non living) • Writing: Exploring Non-Fiction • Reading: Non-Fiction; Honing Reader Tools • Math: <i>Sorting and surveys</i> (data analysis) | | | |