



JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The Junior Kindergarten program is conducted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For those parents who desire it, an enriched program is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Daily Meeting

- greeting and calendar (identifying the day of the week, the month, date and year)
- recognition and discussion of weather conditions using weather chart
- virtue review
- number, letter and sound review
- sight words
- morning message

The academic portion of the Junior Kindergarten program focuses on mathematics and reading readiness.

Mathematics

This program is designed to develop skills and competencies essential to mathematics. Learning activities in the form of drills, matching items, puzzles, sensory-motor exercises and guessing games have been included to stimulate the child's imagination and creativity.

Oral assessments occur after every 10 lessons.

The Junior Kindergarten mathematics program includes the following:

- identify and name shapes and colours and sort by shape and colour,
- manipulate pattern blocks,
- cover a pattern with correct pattern blocks and make a pattern,
- manipulate teddy bear counters,
- counting by fives and tens,
- start to read a graph,
- place objects on a graph and identify the most and fewest on a graph,
- identify and sequence numbers 1 through 5,
- make a shape and piece using three attributes (shape, colour, size),
- match a number card to a set of objects,
- follow an AB pattern, then make an AB pattern with linking cubes,
- identify and sequence numbers 1 through 10,
- order the numbers 0 through 10,

- count pennies,
- act out ordinal position to fourth,
- act out story problems with numbers to 10,
- make shapes on a geo-board,
- copy and then make an ABB pattern with linking cubes.

Reading Mastery I

The first level of the reading program, which consists of 160 lessons in total, is designed to set the stage for word reading. Students learn how to discriminate between sounds and take part in pre-reading exercises, which contain decoding, symbol identification, rhyming and comprehension activities. This allows the students to begin to read simple, regular words by sounding out each word and saying it quickly.

The students are also taught to sequence and follow directions, and are guided in sharpening auditory skills. They learn the importance of forming strong work habits as well as working independently and neatly on corresponding take-home sheets. They are encouraged to develop their ability to pay attention and learn to participate as part of a group.

In Reading Mastery I, sounds and words are introduced on a closely integrated schedule. In total, 40 sounds are taught using three readers and three workbooks. Upon successful completion of the program, students are reading at the grade one level. Junior Kindergarten students complete the Lessons 1-57 and the first workbook. The Reading Mastery I program continues throughout the Senior Kindergarten year.

Phonics

This program enables the students to distinguish between upper and lower case letters and rhyming and non-rhyming words. Students learn to recognize and identify beginning consonant and long and short vowel sounds.

The curriculum is enriched through the following subjects:

Art

The visual art program encourages students to develop a perception of art in daily life, as well as an appreciation for the subject. Students participate in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpting, rubbing, dyeing, relief and texture design, as well as craft making. Creative expression is developed through the use of a wide range of media in two and three-dimensional art forms. Students are encouraged to use their own ideas from imaginative themes and daily life to personalize work while applying knowledge gained from class. Artwork is also inspired by the various themes.

Art class time is divided to allow presentation of new material, “think time” for developing creative ideas, work time and instruction on proper use of tools, as well as closing discussion and cleanup.

Printing

This course is designed to teach students accurate formation of individual letters, allowing children to place letters together with appropriate spacing to print words. A desire for writing neatly is encouraged, along with developing dexterity and attention to detail. The formation of numbers is also studied.

French

The French program works with the music program to develop an interest in and love for the French language. French musical rhymes taught in the music program and selected themes are used as a basis for introducing appropriate vocabulary words. Traditional French songs are also taught and discussed.

Music Initiation (Solfège)

This course is the first in a four-year program designed to provide students with a solid musical basis while learning a little French. In this first year of study, children are taught the rudiments of solmization, a sight-reading technique. On completion of this program, students may begin the study of any instrument with greater facility or participate in a choir with more ease and enjoyment.

The music initiation method employed is dynamic and fun, making use of percussion instruments, movement and musical games such as “dancing” notes on an oversized staff. Emphasis is placed on rhythm so as to respect the children’s need to move and feel the music. Reading and writing skills become a game of colored balls, a child on ski slopes, upward and downward stems, and a motor running along.

Primary objectives for the music program include development of music appreciation, as well as encouraging a desire to participate in musical activities. Students experience music through music and movement, playing instruments, music games and musical improvisation.

The Junior Kindergarten program fosters personal and social development through:

Physical Education

Children take part in physical activities which foster:

- physical and skill development through a variety of games and sports,
- development of coordination and quick reaction through group games, circuits and relays involving balancing, jumping, etc.,
- social development through organized interactive play, e.g., group games, team sports, etc.

A short unit on gymnastics is also provided.

Directed Play

Each day, students have the opportunity for individual and group play activities. These activities include puzzles, play dough, peg boards, string beads, felt boards, colouring sheets and activities with mathematics apparatus, e.g., linking cubes, pattern blocks, counting turtles, etc.

Free Play Centres

An opportunity for exploration and discovery is provided through the following free play centres:

- daily living and dress-up,
- music,
- mathematics,
- reading,
- science,
- arts and crafts,
- blocks and Lego™,
- sand and water play

Theme Activities

Various themes are emphasized throughout the year:

- group activities and games pertaining to the a variety of themes,
- activities coinciding with themes such as seasons, holiday celebrations, nature, nutrition and health, community awareness and safety,
- activities reinforcing numbers, letters and shapes, as well as sorting in sizes and name recognition,
- games to develop memory skills and mind games to develop rhyming,
- co-curricular field trips associated with weekly themes.

Together Time

Social development is fostered through the following group activities:

- story time with discussion,
- musical tapes and singing,
- finger play and gross motor activity,
- walks and outdoor play when weather permits,
- show and tell.