



SENIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The Senior Kindergarten program is a five day program.

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 Senior Kindergarten program focuses on developing mathematics and literacy skills.

Mathematics

This program is designed primarily 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.

In the mathematics program, the students will:

- identify and sort by shape, colour, size,
- count to 10 with one-to-one correspondence,
- order 1 to 10 and identify a missing number,
- count backwards from 10,
- make AB and ABB patterns with linking cubes,
- match a number card to a set of objects,
- cover a design and make a pattern block design,
- read graphs and identify fewest to most and second highest on a graph,
- identify and show time to the hour on a clock,
- sort and identify the sorting rule,
- copy and extend patterns and cover a design in more than one way,
- identify dimes and count by tens,
- identify a one cup measuring cup and follow a simple recipe,
- identify a quart container and identify full and half full and empty containers,
- identify shorter and longer,

- measure length and order objects by length,
- make an ABBC pattern using pattern blocks,
- act out some, some more and some, went away stories,
- write simple subtraction and addition problems on paper,
- make designs with tangrams,
- identify nickels and count by fives,
- identify and cover half a shape,
- purchase items using pennies, dimes, and nickels up to \$1,
- compare objects and match equivalent sets.

Reading Mastery I

Senior Kindergarten students continue with Reading Mastery I, which teaches the students 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 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 take-home books. Senior Kindergarten students begin with the second take-home book. Upon successful completion of the program, students are at a grade I level of reading and comprehension skills. On average, Senior Kindergarten students are reading by the start of the second term.

Building Spelling Skills

Building Spelling Skills is a series of 30 weekly units which focus on sound-symbol correspondence and regularly spelled words that use symbols for sounds students have learned. Students receive a weekly list of words with a shared phonetic or structural element. Learning activities include: visual memory and word meaning exercises, dictation and word study activities, which are followed by a weekly spelling test. High frequency irregularly spelled words are introduced one at a time and added to the weekly spelling list.

Phonics

This program encourages the development of phonemic awareness, strong auditory abilities and the skills necessary for decoding. Students also sharpen their ability to differentiate between various rhyming words, as well as to distinguish between upper and lower case letters. Specific goals include:

- knowledge of all consonant and vowel sounds,
- consonant blends
- digraphs
- contractions
- endings,
- construction of sentences.

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.

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. Children in Senior Kindergarten carry out the various tasks in the art classes with greater independence and a higher degree of skill than the Junior Kindergarten students.

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 designed to provide students with a solid musical basis while learning a little French. Students continue practicing 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.

Printing

Senior Kindergarten students continue to practice accurate formation of individual letters and using appropriate spacing to print words. In the printing workbook, the available writing space is decreased slightly, encouraging students to refine their printing and improve their dexterity and fine motor skills. A desire for writing neatly continues to be encouraged, as is developing an attentive attitude towards detail. Students begin to copy sentences, giving them an opportunity to learn sentence structure. The practice of the formation of numbers is also continued, as students learn the correlation between numbers written in digits and alphabetically and are introduced to writing simple mathematical signs.

Physical Education

This program teaches an understanding of the importance of physical fitness, health and well-being and the factors that contribute to them. It encourages a personal commitment to daily vigorous physical activity and positive health behaviors. It lays the foundation for the basic movement skills the students require to participate in physical activities throughout their lives.

Through structured play and physical activities, children learn to:

- participate willingly in creative movement, dance and other daily physical activities,
- use different types of equipment and materials with ease,
- demonstrate balance, ease and flexibility in movement,
- demonstrate body and spatial awareness,
- identify and apply basic safety rules,
- learn basic skills in team sports.

The health and physical education curriculum fosters:

- physical and skill development through a variety of physical activities, 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.

Science

This program is in part guided by the Science and Technology series and is designed primarily to develop an understanding of relationships between science and technology and the students' own world, understanding science in its social and environmental context. Along with shared exploration in the text, the children are also given various activities to complete. They take part in extensive, hands-on activities, group work and discussions.

The Senior Kindergarten program fosters personal and social development through:

Directed Play

Each day, students have the opportunity for individual and group play activities. These activities include puzzles, play dough, peg boards, felt boards, string beads, 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 theme of the week,
- 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.