

Science and Health

In kindergarten, science is all about observation and prediction. We learn about many cycles found in nature. Some topics may include butterflies, frogs, day and night, and the seasons. A unit on wood and trees incorporates the scientific method using a variety of experiments and activities.

Throughout the year we stress the use of our five senses to understand the world around us. Many opportunities to identify our senses arise in frequent outings along the bike path and around school. By the end of the year the children have excellent observation skills.

Health and nutrition are also important ideas in our kindergarten program. We consistently encourage healthy snacks, especially fruits and vegetables. Plenty of exercise and rest are included as part of a healthy kindergarten life style.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The kindergarten social studies program focuses on being a responsible member of the Old Town Elementary School community. We do this by learning and following both classroom and school rules. Students are given a variety of “jobs” throughout the year to practice being a good school citizen. These include holding the door for classmates, returning library books, and passing out school supplies.

Another focus is learning about many of our national holidays. Columbus Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and President’s Day are some of those covered.

MATH

Our math program, K-5 is Everyday Math. The program emphasizes use of manipulatives to discover math concepts. Through the use of these materials, children develop a thorough understanding of the basic principles of mathematics. Because this is a hands-on math program, less time will be spent on paper and pencil activities.

Math Concepts:

Count objects to 20
Tell time to hour
Count backwards from 10
Identify coins and their values
Identify geometric shapes
Sort and classify objects
Reproduce and extend patterns
Recognize numbers to 100
Rote count by 1s
Write numerals to 20
Read a graph
Count by 2s
Count by 5s
Count by 10s
Addition and subtraction using manipulatives

SOCIAL SKILLS

Old Town Elementary School students are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our school with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted. Our school wide policy is hands off play.

Kindergarten students will learn to be responsible and develop respect for school rules. They will be expected to take care of their personal belongings and school property.

WORK HARD AND BE KIND

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM



Welcome to kindergarten, we look forward to many learning adventures with your child. We value parent involvement and believe we can better teach your child when working in a partnership with you and your family. Parent/teacher communication is extremely important to each child’s academic and social success in kindergarten. Consistent communication with you is one of our top priorities. We view parents as partners and our biggest allies in education. We welcome your questions and applaud your involvement, knowing that by showing an interest in your child’s school experience you will leave a very positive lasting impression on your child.

We are committed to making kindergarten a year of excitement, growth, and opportunity, both academically and socially. We will guide and encourage your child, celebrating each step of the way as he or she gains a love of learning, self-confidence, and the academic skills that form a foundation for continued success throughout their school career. Our goal is for your child to become an active learning and a disciplined, creative thinker, to learn to make good choices, to work cooperatively, and to be kind and responsible.

READING

Reading instruction in kindergarten begins with introducing students to quality literature. Children enjoy listening to stories which familiarize them to book language. Reading skills are taught using phonics, big books and guided reading.

Oral language is the foundation for reading. A focus on oral language throughout the year helps develop vocabulary and book language in preparation for shared and guided reading instruction.

Shared Reading

Shared reading is a time when poems, rhymes, stories and songs are read aloud as a group. The children will follow along and join in the reading. This type of reading increases their involvement as they take a more active part. Children feel more comfortable and willing to take risks in this situation.

Guided Reading

Later in the year, kindergarteners will be involved in guided reading. Guided reading provides an opportunity to teach children the variety of reading strategies they need in order to become fluent, independent readers. During guided reading, the teacher monitors and evaluates each child's progress. While some children may be working on alphabet recognition; some may require teacher support to read stories with predictable text, and others may read simple texts independently.

Comprehension

Comprehension in kindergarten begins with talking about books we read in class. Then we move into story retelling and sequencing of stories using props and story retelling kits.

Reading can be supported at home in many ways; reading aloud to your child daily for 20 minutes and talking about stories; before, during and after benefits both their reading and oral language. Also, reminding and listening to your child re-read their guided reading book brought home usually once a week, will help your child become a stronger, more fluent reader.

WRITING

Do you remember how excited you were when your child began to talk? You celebrated your child's cooing and baby talk; listened to, accepted, and praised your child's early attempts at speaking; and spoke to your child so that he or she could hear the correct pronunciation of words. In those ways, you joyfully taught your child to speak. You can support your child's written language development in much the same way that you supported his or her oral language development, naturally, meaningfully, and joyfully. You can model writing for authentic purposes. Tell your child what you are doing and why when you are writing shopping lists, letters, and reminder notes. Praise your child's early attempts at writing. Learning to write should be as free of risk as learning to talk. Your child went through several necessary stages in the development of oral language: cooing, babbling, and playing with sounds. Similarly, written language development follows predictable stages. These are the stages your child will probably go through as he or she becomes a competent writer.

Kindergarten writing includes Shared Writing, Interactive Writing, and Independent Writing.

Shared Writing

Shared writing or modeled writing is an approach to writing where the teacher and children work together to compose messages and stories. Children provide the ideas and the teacher supports the process as a scribe. The message is usually related to some individual or group experience. The teacher provides full support, modeling and demonstrating the process of putting children's ideas into written language.

Interactive Writing

During interactive writing the teacher and class, or small group, work together to create written text. In order to produce the written words, the students articulate the sounds with the teacher then write the letters and chunks of words that they hear. The teacher may fill in parts of the words or whole words, depending upon the group's stage of writing development. Interactive writing is used for creating stories, writing poems, the retelling of favorite literature, recipes, directions, and lists.

Independent Writing

During independent writing, children are encouraged to get ideas on paper by using pictures, letters, and words.

Penmanship

Penmanship is taught using the *Handwriting Without Tears* program. The program is a developmentally based curriculum for writing readiness and printing. Multisensory lessons teach to all learning styles.