

Primary Plus Curriculum Outline

Junior Kindergarten

Philosophy

Acting as a bridge between preschool and kindergarten, the Junior Kindergarten class at Primary Plus grants the gift of time. Junior kindergarten children develop confidence through cooperation and compromise when working in small or large groups. Students are encouraged to build on ideas and activities, as they continue to grow and learn. The children have a diverse choice of educational activities: language arts, reading, math, computer, art and physical education. Children will experience a schedule with academics being broken down to include the steps necessary to be fully prepared for kindergarten.

Goals

In Junior Kindergarten our goals include:

- Helping the children work as a class to develop rules that will benefit them.
- The children will develop understanding of concepts about themselves, others and the world around them through observation, interacting with people and real objects, and seeking solutions to concrete problems.
- The children will grow in social skills such as cooperating, helping, negotiating and talking to solve interpersonal problems.
- The students will experience success and be proud of their achievements.
- The students will develop high self-esteem and positive feelings toward learning.

How is the day organized?

Junior Kindergarten is a full day educational program. At 8:30 the students begin a structured class environment. The goals and learning activities for the day are outlined by a caring teacher.

At approximately 12:00, the students have lunch, followed by outdoor play and a rest/quiet period.

The afternoon activities include a mixture of small motor development and reading readiness activities. An afternoon snack is served at approximately 2:30.

Students enrolled in the extended day program can arrive on campus as early as 6:30 a.m. and leave as late as 6:00 p.m. During those times, the students engage in supervised activities.

Basic Academic Readiness Skills

Junior Kindergarten class works with math and reading skills which are presented in a natural context. Pre-reading and pre-writing skills are developed through the use of journals, a large classroom library and a constant exposure to print. A printing center is available to the children during free play. Math concepts are developed in a variety of ways. Children count daily during calendar and snack times. Hands-on manipulatives are used to help count and understand numbers in a concrete way. During dramatic play and other forms of free play the children are given the opportunity to experiment with numbers and letters in a way which is appropriate and beneficial.

Art, Music and Movement

Art, music and movement are considered part of the Junior Kindergarten program. Daily activities incorporate art, music and movement in relation to the theme that is being explored in class.

Art is a time when the process is more important than the product. Children are encouraged to use a variety of materials when creating their projects. Children are sometimes given a specific task to complete, but are also encouraged to create during free time.

Music is a time for children to learn to appreciate and love music. Songs are usually related to the theme and can be correlated with books we are reading. Music can also be brought from home. Children use musical instruments to practice differentiating between loud and soft sounds, fast and slow rhythms and other music related concepts.

Gross motor skills are developed through various movement activities. The class has Physical Education (P.E.) class on a weekly basis. They also play on the playground daily. In addition, movement to music is part of the daily curriculum.