

Kindergarten Prep



Language Works

Daily Pre-Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking

Children need everyday opportunities for literacy development.

Pre-Reading — Reading high-quality literature to children is the single best experience to prepare them for school and is at the core of a language-rich environment.

Phonemic Awareness — Understanding the relationship between speech and print, all the way down to the smallest sound units (phonemes), is critical to the learning-to-read process.

Writing — Learning to write starts with being immersed in a print-rich environment — scribbling, mock writing, and drawing pictures — as well as seeing written language used with meaning and purpose.

Listening — Learning to listen is a key piece to learning to communicate.

Speaking — Children learn best in an environment where spoken language is valued as an integral tool for expression.



Enriched Writing Center or Desk

Children need an inviting place to explore writing, where they can be inspired throughout the day. This center also makes it easy for parents to see that children have opportunities to foster emerging writing skills.



Growing Readers Activities Implemented in the Classroom

These activities can encourage children's interest in reading a variety of topics, and bring stories to life.



Every Classroom Has Handwriting Without Tears

Children gain an age-appropriate introduction to handwriting by using hands-on manipulative materials, including wooden letter pieces, magnetic boards, play dough, and chalkboards. For this age, specially lined paper and pencils are added to the materials.



Children Complete A Daily Sign-in Sheet or Daily Experience Sheet

Children need natural opportunities to practice writing. Each child is offered a variety of ways to use his or her name to sign in and share a perspective on the day's happenings.



Word Rings

Learning sight words and how to “sound out” words phonetically are key aspects of early reading development. Providing written words as cues supports children's growing skills and independence in writing.



Journal Writing – Literacy

Learning how to communicate in writing is important. The journal is a special place for children to use pictures and words to express thoughts and ideas. The children document, collect, and reflect on personal and classroom experiences. They also learn that spoken words are associated with printed symbols and relay a consistent message to others.



Math Counts



Enriched Math Center

Young children need concrete experiences to build a foundation for future math learning — this center contains a rich variety of materials to give children hands-on opportunities to explore mathematical concepts.



Cooking with Recipe Cards or Written Recipe Visible to Children

Cooking is the best way to teach children about nutrition and healthy eating habits, and it also exposes them to math concepts such as counting, measuring, and fractions. Following recipes can help them learn how to track words from left to right and begin to distinguish numbers from letters.

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Every Classroom Implements Everyday Mathematics

Children need to be exposed to using math in real-life, meaningful ways. Everyday Mathematics is a research-based program that integrates mathematics into other subject areas, daily routines, and transition times.



Rotating Math Stations: Sequencing, Estimation, Graphing

Sequencing — Leads to the creation of higher-order thinking and problem-solving abilities.



Estimation — Helps children develop mental flexibility, good number sense, and the confidence that math makes sense.

Graphing — Offers children the chance to learn to read and analyze the data displayed in pictures and graphs — an important foundational skill in our data-driven world.



Journal Writing (Math Section)

Key writing skills — being able to gather, organize, and clarify thoughts and ideas — are remarkably similar to the skills required for mathematics. Children want to make sense of the world, and math can help them do so. Children use their journals to articulate mathematical thinking and use words, symbols, and images to communicate.

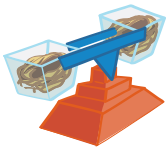


Science Rocks



Science Starters, Big Questions, and the Scientific Method

Children are born with a strong sense of curiosity — they want to know how things work. The scientific method is the basis for this scientific inquiry, and children will use it throughout their lives to experiment and explore.



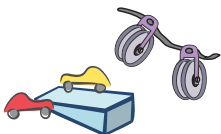
Classroom Science Rocks Laboratory and Lab Coats

Advanced materials and equipment allow children to study science in more depth. In the classroom lab, they can actively collect, examine, and explore natural materials, as well as conduct science experiments.



Outdoor Science Rocks Lab

When big messy experiments can happen outdoors, where botany and geology naturally exist, outdoor learning is maximized. This lab is an extension of the classroom lab, which includes tables, science equipment, and natural materials.



STEM Activities

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) experiences offer interdisciplinary learning and allow children to use critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.



Woodworking

Through this classic early childhood activity, children develop eye-hand coordination, creativity, planning, and design skills. They gain an understanding of tool use, as well as a deeper knowledge of weight, balance, strength, and texture. Woodworking builds a foundation for designing and creating innovative materials.



Journal Writing (Science Section)

Children draw or write about their scientific observations and discoveries. Journals provide an extension of discussions about various science topics, experiments, or even nature walks, and an opportunity to practice a different style of writing.



Science Fair

This annual event allows children and families to share excitement about science. It offers opportunities to collaborate to explore scientific questions, try out the scientific method, and articulate scientific thinking to family members and classmates.