



Kindergarten

Each area of the Kindergarten curriculum is supported by New Jersey State Standards for Kindergarten and First Grade. Learning opportunities exist in a variety of contexts including independent exploration, small group instruction and peer supported learning.

We are developing foundational skills necessary for success of tomorrow's youth. We offer opportunities to total child development: socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically. Students will learn to function within a group (taking turns, sharing experiences and thoughts, listening and assisting class mates, be a leader) and learning to become independent in handling personal needs, handling Classroom materials and following routines. Students learn to express and communicate thoughts and ideas through speaking, listening, drawing and writing. The curriculum offers both formal and informal learning activities, individual enrichment in the academic areas, as well as in music, art, and physical education.

Why Choose ELA

We founded an engaging and very educational environment for our 1.5 year curious kid at ELA. Three years later, we have a young kindergartner who is confident, smart and eager to learn. He has a deep love for reading, enjoys making (& writing) stories, looks forward to museums and other field trips and has no problem articulating and even speculating on possibilities. At each stage, we have been incredibly fortunate to have good, caring, empathetic and passionate teachers. In the years our son has been there, we have seen our kid speak out loud in class' show and share, ride on a fire department vehicle with real fire men, host and enjoy book fairs, do addition, subtraction & some multiplication, celebrate global cultural festivals, visit museums and zoos, play in fun bus, celebrate the magic of Dr. Seuss, understand Black history month, learn science, write stories, speak Spanish (not our native language), play violin, sing to a melody, put concerts and teach us sign language. And that's not even half of it.

Tanu S. Mother - Kindergarten

Language Arts curriculum goals for Reading and Writing

Reading

- Use left to right and top to bottom motion.
- Read one syllable words (e.g. cat) and recognize common and color words (e.g. the red, blue) by sight.
- Use picture clues to read.
- Make predictions
- Identify the character, setting and main idea of a story.
- Understand the simple structure of stories (beginning, middle, end)
- Retell a story with details

Writing

- Write all the letters of the alphabet in both upper and lower case
- Correctly write first and last name
- Print correct letter symbols to correspond with picture
- Write and correctly spell some simple consonant-vowel-consonant words (e.g. Cat)
- Write longer words spelled the way they sound (phonetically)
- Write from left to right and from top to bottom
- Use writing (letters pictures and the spacing)

Mathematics

We will introduce the class to number concepts by pointing out that many artists both sign and number their prints. Help the children develop an understanding of one-to-one correspondence as they place one paintbrush in each paint pot or replace a cap on each marker.

Teachers encourage the children to observe patterns in art such as stripes or alternating shapes. Challenge them to make patterns as they use stencils or sponge paint a border.

We invite the children to explore geometry and spatial sense as they use three-dimensional shapes in sculpting. Talk about the shapes children use in their paintings. Use positional words - over, under, inside, next to - as you speak to them about their creations.

Classroom teachers let them practice with measurement by having them tear paper "as long as this shelf". Involve them in making art materials. They can measure ingredients as they follow recipes.

The Arts

Our teachers tie music to art activities by playing background music that sets a tone and tempo for creativity. Have them draw, paint or sculpt in the manner that the music makes them feel. Link art to drama by providing them with art supplies they can use to make backdrops and costumes for a puppet show or dramatic play.

Technology

The teachers help our class develop an awareness of technology by teaching them how to use specific tools. Point out how carpenters for example use their tools to build everything from houses, to their school, or decks or even picture frames. Hang up their computer generated art work beside their other creations.

Science

We introduce the children to physical science by conducting experiments with different art media. As they add water to clay or mix paints together, we encourage the children to observe changes. We will teach them about balance while building a sculpture or creating a mobile. Ask questions to help them explore the physical properties of materials ("What can we use to hold these wooden pieces together?")

We teach the children about life science by having them incorporate leaves and flowers collected on a nature walk into their art. We bring in living things - plants and animals - to the Art Area for them to observe and draw.

Teachers increase their awareness of earth and the environment by having them observe the use of shadow in fine art and then trace their friends' shadows in chalk while playing outdoors. Create art using various items from the earth such as clay, sand, dirt, or water.

Social Studies

Here the children are encouraged to learn about people and how they live by drawing, painting, and sculpting the people and things in their world. Teachers will invite a parent or local artist to demonstrate pottery, weaving, basket making, or other works of art from their culture.

We promote their knowledge of people and the environment by creating art that will beautify the environment at school. Teachers encourage them to conserve materials by reusing clay, drawing on the backs of used paper, and keeping tops on markers.

Dance

Our Dance classes consist of an instructor teaching ballet, Indian and Modern dances. This ensures that the children learn, comprehend and grasp every step that is taught.

Music

Our music classes consist of teaching how to read and play music notes. Children will be taught how to play the piano, violin & so much more.

Yoga/Gymnastic

In yoga and gymnastics children learn techniques for self-health, relaxation, and inner fulfillment; they use the techniques to navigate life's challenges with a little more ease.

Spanish/Sign Language

ELA's language classes consist of a 30 minute language class. Students learn and grasp the languages by teaching the same words in both classes; the words learned in these language classes will also be learned throughout the academic school day.