



THE SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL

pre-kindergarten

Curriculum Guide

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Pre-Kindergarten Philosophy

The Seven Hills School Pre-Kindergarten philosophy sets the stage for learning today *and tomorrow*. We believe early childhood education is the foundation of an important journey and we are determined to make it an experience that will encourage a sense of accomplishment, confidence, and wonder that will last a lifetime.

The Seven Hills Early Childhood Approach

The Early Childhood Learning Program at Seven Hills was designed using a framework of best practices derived from current research, along with years of experience exploring a variety of proven methods from a wide spectrum of early childhood philosophies.

We create a unique child-centered program, which is continually evolving, and allows us to reach each child's learning style and potential. Each child's individual differences are recognized and respected, and the individually guided program is flexible enough to meet a range of readiness and abilities within a group. While the program is centered on academic subjects, the growth of the whole child — attitude, habits, values, and enthusiasms — is equally as important at this age as the academic knowledge and skills the child is developing.

Assessment is a natural, ongoing process that occurs in formal and informal settings through observation and interaction. Our teachers use their expert knowledge of early childhood developmental milestones while guiding and encouraging each child.

Students are encouraged to explore, experience and express talents in a comfortable and family-like environment. The best each student can achieve is expected and nurtured. Both successes and struggles are viewed with a sense of proportion and opportunity. The success of the child is the faculty's greatest reward, and the teachers feel privileged to share in the journey.

Overview of Domains

During the early childhood years the following domains are the areas of development most important to the growth and success of a healthy, well-rounded child. Each domain is important on its own and yet dependent on the others. Each child develops at his or her own rate within the domains. Our curriculum is built around these domains and is supported by the Seven Hills Values.

OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD DOMAINS:

- *The Social/Emotional Domain* is the foundation that provides self-awareness and self-regulation.
- *The Language Domain* addresses verbal, auditory, and written communication.
- *The Cognitive Domain* encompasses a child's academic skills.
- *The Sensory/Motor Domain* covers sensory integration such as fine motor and gross motor skills as they relate to body awareness.
- *The Creative Domain* allows for learning through curiosity and imagination.

Each domain is important on its own and yet is dependent on the others. Together, the five domains form the foundation of our curriculum and support achievement of our Pre-Kindergarten program objectives.

Pre-Kindergarten Program Objectives

The Pre-Kindergarten program and teachers recognize each child's unique talents. The following objectives are carefully adapted to meet each child's readiness level. With deep understanding of each child, our teachers will encourage every child to reach full potential.

Social and Emotional

Positive social and emotional growth is the foundation for successful learning throughout a child's life. Seven Hills' Pre-Kindergarten educators consider social and emotional development to be of the utmost importance. Opportunities to develop these skills are woven throughout our curriculum and in daily experiences and interactions. Healthy social and emotional development goes hand-in-hand with successful cognitive development.

Growing as an individual

- Show self-confidence
- Show respect for self
- Care for one's own needs
- Express needs and wants
- Display control over emotions
- Manage frustrations
- Take responsibility for actions
- Respond to redirection

Being part of a group

- Communicate effectively
- Demonstrate listening skills
- Problem-solve appropriately
- Show respect for others and classroom
- Share with others
- Show cooperation and collaboration
- Enter social situations and participate in friendships

Pre-Kindergarten
Program
Objectives

Language

Language is developed through listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Students synthesize information at varying levels and are challenged appropriately. Learning environments are rich in print and language.

Reading

- Experience a variety of literature
- Improve listening skills
- Understand the rhythm of language
- Identify letters, words, and symbols
- Expand vocabulary through stories
- Acquire phonetic awareness
- Discriminate first letter sounds
- Recognize in print own name and meaningful words

Writing

- “Story tell” with words and actions
- Participate in journaling
- Manipulate all forms of writing implements
- Experiment with letter-like symbols progressing to inventive spelling
- Write from word cards and letters dictated by others
- Write with a purpose

Mathematics

Mathematical knowledge is taught through a hands-on approach in many meaningful situations throughout the day. Each day, individual and group opportunities are offered to build curiosity and encourage children to explore mathematical ideas with increasing sophistication.

- Problem solve
- Develop analytical thinking skills
- Identify, name, and order whole numbers
- Explore the principles of one to one correspondence
- Quantify and count objects
- Pattern and sort by multiple attributes
- Chart, estimate, and graph classroom experiences
- Investigate geometric principles of size, shape, weight and spatial sense
- Construct mathematical relationships

Pre-Kindergarten
Program
Objectives

Science

Science is an experiential process that engages children through observation and hands-on activities. The environment both inside and out is set up to nurture children’s knowledge and sense of wonder about themselves and the world around them. Lessons are planned, experiments are available, and teachers take full advantage of spontaneous discoveries.

- Discover methods of scientific discovery
- Develop confidence to ask questions and make predictions
- Explore physical science
- Investigate with scientific tools
- Experience chemical science including cooking and simple experiments
- Develop awareness of basic health, nutrition, and safety concepts
- Study natural science including the life cycles of animal and plant life
- Demonstrate respect and care for living things and the environment

Social Studies

Social Studies curriculum begins with self-awareness. Children gain an understanding of the world around them as they construct individual and global perspectives.

- Realize and respect individual differences
- Investigate different cultures, traditions, and lifestyles
- Think as a global learner
- Explore functions and contributions of community members within a classroom and in society
- Interpret time-related concepts
- Celebrate the origins of holidays around the world
- Understand contributions of national figures
- Study various land and water forms
- Explore maps, globes, and flags

Pre-Kindergarten Program Objectives

Sensory Integration

Sensory Integration is an integral part of our school environment. This guiding factor allows children to successfully participate in the world around them.

- Begin to understand body awareness and position in space
- Use senses to process and interact appropriately within the environment
- Practice equilibrium
- Process tactile sensory messages
- Organize, plan, and execute new or unpracticed motor tasks

Motor Skills

Our classrooms and outdoor environments are carefully designed to offer continuous opportunities for motor practice. Physical activities promote the development of fine motor and gross motor skills crucial for brain development and success in life.

Fine Motor

- Establish hand dominance
- Manipulate tools and small objects
- Strengthen small muscles
- Acquire ability to cross midline
- Respond to fine motor challenges

Gross Motor

- Practice hand eye coordination
- Strengthen muscle coordination and control
- Establish and/or improve balance and spatial awareness
- Acquire ability to cross midline
- Respond to gross motor challenges

Pre-Kindergarten Program Objectives

Creativity

Our Pre-Kindergarten provides the time and space for children to explore the arts. The classrooms establish a climate of creativity where we encourage each child to experiment and express him- or herself through a variety of the arts.

- Use imagination in dramatic play
- Experiment with a variety of art materials
- Explore new uses for familiar objects
- Design using construction manipulatives
- Express ideas in unique ways
- Explore open-ended projects and play

Specials

An important and unique strength of our program is instruction provided by specialist teachers. Our Specials include Spanish, library, music, drama, physical education, and guidance. Continual collaboration between classroom and Specials teachers provides an integrated learning experience that helps young children thrive.

Spanish

- Exchange Spanish greetings
- Learn Spanish vocabulary
- Discover Spanish-speaking cultures
- Participate in songs and stories

Library

- Acquire proper book use and library etiquette
- Establish listening skills
- Appreciate and understand authors and illustrators
- Embrace a variety of literature

Pre-Kindergarten Program Objectives

Specials, cont.

Drama

- Gain an understanding of proper audience manners
- Understand the stage as a performance area
- Comprehend basic stage direction
- Experience character development by participating in mini-performances
- Experiment with improvisation

Physical Education

- Cooperate in games and team sports
- Develop body and spatial awareness
- Establish good sportsmanship
- Participate in structured and exploratory movement activities
- Explore a variety of age-appropriate equipment

Music

- Experience the movement, rhythm and tempo of music
- Discover and use a variety of instruments
- Explore sounds made by a variety of instruments including one's own voice
- Experiment with improvisation

Guidance

- Recognize feelings of self and others
- Learn respect for others
- Gain skills for joining a group and understanding community
- Explore positive behaviors and interactions with others



T H E S E V E N H I L L S S C H O O L

contact us

Since he or she was born, you've been your child's primary teacher. You still are.

You provide unconditional love. The Seven Hills School Early Childhood Learning Program provides unconditional support and unparalleled expertise ... all in our close-knit pre-kindergarten through 12 learning community.

Please don't hesitate to call with any questions. We're here to help!

Call **513.728.2400** or visit **www.7hills.org**

7hills.org

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