



THE SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL

kindergarten

Curriculum Guide

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Kindergarten Philosophy

The Seven Hills School kindergarten philosophy sets the stage for learning today *and* tomorrow. We believe the skills developed in early childhood lay the foundation for lifelong academic success. To that end, we create experiences that 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 is 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 our 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 – attitudes, 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 to foster and guide each child. Students are encouraged to explore, experience, and express talents in a comfortable and family-like environment. Each student is nurtured and supported to reach his or her full potential. Both successes and struggles are viewed as opportunities for growth. Each child's success is the faculty's greatest reward and our 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. Every 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 as well as reading.
- *The Cognitive Domain* encompasses a child's academic skills and work habits.
- *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 kindergarten program objectives.

Kindergarten Program Objectives

Kindergarten teachers recognize each child's unique talents. Our program objectives are carefully adapted to meet each child's readiness level. With deep understanding of each child, our teachers 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 kindergarten educators consider social and emotional development to be of the upmost 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

- Demonstrate self-confidence
- Take care of one's own needs
- Express needs and wants
- Exercise self-control
- Take responsibility for one's own actions
- Respond to redirection

Being part of a group

- Communicate effectively
- Demonstrate listening skills
- Attempt to problem-solve
- Show respect for others and environment
- Accept rules and routines of the classroom
- Share and take turns
- Demonstrate cooperation and collaboration
- Interact appropriately with others

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

- Explore a variety of literature
- Listen and comment appropriately
- Understand stories and poems
- Identify uppercase and lowercase letters
- Recognize color, number, and sight words
- Expand vocabulary through stories
- Discriminate initial, final, and vowel sounds
- Blend sounds into words
- Recognize first and last name and meaningful words in print
- Recognize and use rhyming and opposite words

Writing

- Form uppercase and lowercase letters
- Write full name correctly
- Participate in journaling
- Manipulate all forms of writing implements
- Copy words from classroom resources
- Use phonetic spelling
- Use conventions of print
- Write with a purpose

Oral

- Express ideas well
- Communicate clearly to others
- Participate in group discussions
- Develop public speaking skills

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.

- Develop analytical thinking skills
- Use problem solving
- Identify, name, and order whole numbers
- Count using one-to-one correspondence
- Skip count by 2, 5, and 10

Kindergarten Program Objectives

Mathematics, cont.

- Sort using multiple attributes
- Understand patterning
- Understand sets
- Gather and interpret data via charts and graphs
- Investigate geometric principles of size, shape, and weight
- Identify basic shapes
- Understand addition and subtraction
- Understand math vocabulary
- Tell time by the hour and half hour
- Recognize coins

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
- Hone observational skills using the five senses
- Develop confidence to ask questions and make predictions
- Explore physical science
- Investigate using 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, seasons, and weather

Kindergarten Program Objectives

Social Studies

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

- Recognize and respect individual differences
- Explore different cultures, traditions, and lifestyles
- Think as a global learner
- Explore the functions and contributions of community members within a classroom and in society
- Celebrate the origins of holidays around the world
- Understand contributions of national and historic figures
- Investigate various land and water forms
- Explore maps, globes, and flags
- Investigate the seven continents and the various animals, food, and lifestyles within each

Work Habits

Work habits are essential skills that are necessary for the success of the student. The skills developed in kindergarten set the foundation for academic success both today and in the future.

- Follow directions
- Manage time
- Work well independently
- Seek help when needed
- Complete tasks
- Respect materials
- Organize personal belongings
- Clean up after activities

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.

Kindergarten Program Objectives

Fine Motor

- Manipulate tools and small objects
- Strengthen small hand muscles
- Acquire ability to cross midline
- Develop correct pencil grip
- Use scissors effectively

Gross Motor

- Demonstrate hand-eye coordination
- Acquire ability to cross midline
- Improve coordination and agility
- Demonstrate control of body and awareness of space

Creativity

Our kindergarten provides opportunities and space to explore the arts. Classrooms establish a climate of creativity, where children are encouraged to experiment and express themselves through a variety of the arts.

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

Specials

An important and unique strength of our kindergarten program is instruction provided by specialist teachers. Our specials include Spanish, library, music, drama, physical education, art 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 with a focus on the school's visiting author of the year

Kindergarten Program Objectives

Specials, cont.

Library, cont.

- Embrace a variety of literature
- Explore various literature found throughout the world
- Establish an understanding of the library as a resource for borrowing books

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
- Use puppets to express stories

Physical Education

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

Music

- Experience the rhythm, movement, 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

Art

- Gain an understanding of various art materials and tools
- Explore creativity
- Approach tasks from different perspectives
- Build confidence
- Learn problem solving skills
- Create art through personal interpretation
- Collaborate with others to accomplish a common goal

Guidance

- Recognize, express, and verbalize 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
- Develop conflict resolution skills
- Explore family – what it means, how it feels to be part of, and various types of families



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 **7hills.org**

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