

Circle Play & Learn Academy

Grade 2 Curriculum

The curriculum listed here is a sampling of possible topics; using their professional judgment, teachers will choose the topics and formulate lesson plans specifically for the children in the class. Also, parent requests are gladly honored.

Academic Skills

- Memorization, recall
 - Recitation of poetry and stories
- Planning ahead, order of operations
- Listening, following directions
- Following rules
- Making something new
- Focus on paper work
- Self-motivation and discipline for independent work
- Recognizing the viewpoints and experiences of others

Social Studies

- World Cultures
 - Stories and songs from many countries around the world, including conversations about these cultures
 - Introduction to history of indigenous cultures
 - Introduction to history and cultural context of saints and heroes
- Holidays and Festivals
 - Michaelmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Saint Lucia's Day, Advent, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Mardi Gras, Easter, May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Saints' Days
- Introduction to foreign languages – Spanish, French

Mathematics

- Counting to 1,000
 - Counting by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s, and 100s
- Geometry—recognizing and naming shapes, relating and fitting shapes together, straight/curved
 - Form Drawing – running forms, shapes, mirroring, contrasting
 - Geometry of multiplication tables
- Weight, size, volume, and quantity estimations, comparisons, and manipulations
- Patterns
- Writing and reading Arabic and Roman numerals
- Concepts of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing
 - Writing mathematical problems on paper
 - Memorization of Math Facts including addition and subtraction tables up to 18 and multiplication and division tables up to 12

- Decimals and place values
- Adding 2-digit numbers
- Subtracting 1-digit numbers from 2-digit numbers and introduction to subtracting 2-digit numbers

Language Arts

- Literacy skills
 - Oral telling of stories
 - Reading and creating books
- Alphabet, Phonics, and Writing
 - Phonemic Awareness of all letters, blends, digraphs, diphthongs, and trigraphs
 - Writing of capital and lower-case letters
 - Sight Words
 - Sentences
 - Introduction to cursive writing
- Storytelling and retelling by both teacher and student
 - Theatrical and dramatic arts
 - Inventing stories and poetry
 - Memorization and recitation
- Comprehension
 - Dialogue and discussion
 - Synopsizing stories
 - Imagining what comes next
 - Relating stories to their own lives and experiences
 - Understanding point of view of various characters
- Rhyming, alliteration, rhythm, syllables, repetition, rhythm, meter
- Conversation and dialogue
- Fables from around the world
 - Aesop's Fables
 - Native American Stories
 - Saints

Science

- Meteorology
 - Weather
 - Seasons
- Geology (qualities of stones)
- Food
 - Agriculture
 - Cooking
- Categorizing
 - Sorting, comparing/contrasting
 - Kingdoms (Plant, Animal, etc.)
 - Recognizing and naming species
- Biology

- Diet and behavior of certain animal species
 - Metamorphosis (frogs, butterflies)
- Physics
 - Gaseous, solid, and liquid states of water
 - Density – floating/sinking
- Astronomy
 - Moon, sun, stars, planets, constellations
 - Spaceships/astronauts
- Archaeology
 - Dinosaurs
 - Digging
 - Deciphering clues
- Time
 - Days of Week
 - Months of Year
 - Telling Time

Community

- Cooperative game playing
- Imaginative free play with friends
- Relationships: self, parent/child, stranger, inter-generational, friends, relatives, non-human, spirit
- Emotions
- Empathy, perspective (of others)
- Sharing, giving, receiving, generosity, gratitude
- Responsibility, household chores
- Manners, respect
- Giving instructions and making requests politely, expressing displeasure respectfully
- Nobility (leading and setting example to younger students, protecting those weaker than self)

Self

- Knowing own likes, dislikes, needs
 - Expressing self clearly and politely
- Courage
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Gratitude
- Joy, humor
- Love
- Trust/distrust
- Self-discipline

Health/Physical Education

- Sit/stand, Bend/straight, Push/pull, gentle/firm, throw/catch, balance/tumble, roll/expand, low/high, fast/slow, big/small
- Directions forward, backward, sideways, far, close
- Prepositions: in front, above, inside, outside, behind, below, beside, on, under
- Body parts
- Outdoor time for health of lungs, eyes, and large motor development, as well as increased impetus for creativity and confidence
- Character play
- Gross motor skills: jumping, skipping, stretching, bending, kicking, reaching, etc.
- Collaborative games
- Use of sport implements – balls, hula hoops, jump ropes, etc.

Humanities—Music, Art, Dance, Beauty

- Songs, poems, dance, fingerplays
- Instruments: Vocal, percussion, natural, recorder
- Skills of dexterity: painting, coloring, drawing, chalking, cutting, gluing, stamping, stickering, sewing, embroidery, modeling
- Qualities of music: fast/slow, repetitive
- Colors: Light/dark, primary colors, color blends, rainbow/colorwheel
- Artistic appreciation, beauty, emotional expression/communication
- Finest quality art supplies for a beautiful feeling during creation and a high quality resulting product—expensive paintbrushes, watercolor paints, beeswax crayons, special paper, real clay
- Finest quality toys—playsilks of real silk, wooden toys, handcrafted toys, all-natural, soft to the touch, attractive
- Review knitting, introduce crochet

Discipline

For the most part, Circle Play & Learn teachers elicit positive behaviors from children because they create a comfortable and predictable daily rhythm, which makes the children comfortable. Additionally, they instruct through song and teach through example, modeling the behaviors they desire rather than lecturing about them. This is very successful. However, when a little extra guidance is needed, Circle Play methods veer slightly from traditional Waldorf education. We follow the recommendations put forth in No Drama Discipline by Daniel Siegel. Even as Circle Play teachers hold high standards and expectations of good behavior, they are very gentle in their guidance. The children respond very well and happily to this.