



Circle Play & Learn Academy Kindergarten Curriculum

The Circle Play & Learn curriculum overlaps with the Preschool curriculum, deepening the understanding of many of the items listed for preschoolers. Additionally, Kindergarteners get an opportunity to work individually or in small groups with their teachers on age-specific 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
- Short-term focus on paper work

Social Studies

- World Cultures
 - Stories and songs from many countries around the world
- Holidays and Festivals
 - Michaelmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Mardi Gras, Easter, May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day
- Introduction to foreign languages – Spanish, French
- Fairytales from around the world

Mathematics

- Familiarity with spoken numbers and counting to 100
- Geometry—recognizing and naming shapes, relating and fitting shapes together, straight/curved
 - Form Drawing running lines (straight, curved, wavy, zig-zag, etc.)
 - Form Drawing shapes
 - Tracing
 - Introduction to mirroring
- Weight, size, volume, and quantity estimation and comparison
- Simple, short patterns

Language Arts

- Pre-Literacy and Early Literacy skills
 - Holding books correctly, deciphering pictures in books
 - Drawing straight lines, curved lines, crossed lines, circles, etc.
 - Recognizing symbols

- Storytelling and retelling by both teacher and student
 - Theatrical and dramatic arts
 - Inventing stories and poetry
- Comprehension
 - Dialogue and discussion
 - 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

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

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 – presentation with toy sword, including inherent responsibilities

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, climbing, 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
- 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
- Finger knitting

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.