



Jakarta Intercultural School

Early Years Curriculum Highlights

2022-2023

Guiding Principles

We believe:

- Each child is unique.
- Children are competent learners with an innate curiosity about the world.
- Children construct their own meaning through encounters with their environment and the people in it.
- In the value and power of continuous reflection.
- Building positive relationships between children, parents and educators is essential to our learning community.
- Our role as educators is to provide a safe and nurturing environment to promote an atmosphere of joyful and passionate learning.

“Learning is not worth a penny if courage and joy are lost along the way.”

-Pestalozzi



Therefore, at JIS, the Early Years Program

- Emphasizes developmentally appropriate learning opportunities grounded in developmental theory, knowledge of each child's development, and the socio-cultural context of the individual's upbringing.
- Nurtures child-initiated inquiry, wondering and questioning.
- Offers children opportunities to communicate their ideas through performing, creativity, movement and uninterrupted play.
- Emphasizes oral language as the foundation of literacy development.
- Empowers children to make supported and independent decisions about their learning engagements, tools, materials and partners.
- Enables children to understand their experiences with others and the world through exploration and play with a variety of materials.
- Embraces the outdoors as an integral part of the learning environment.
- Supports children through exposure to multiple educators in order to best meet their developmental needs.
- Gives children the opportunity to learn in multi-age environments.



Jakarta Intercultural School

We are passionate, inquisitive and creative – learning in Indonesia to be best *for* the world.

We value perseverance, integrity, responsibility, respect, compassion, balance and fun.

We will inspire joyful, rigorous learning and foster wellness as a pioneering, inclusive, and collaborative community.

We learn by reflecting and relating, by being resourceful and resilient.

The Core of JIS

Passionate, inquisitive, and creative – learning in Indonesia to be best for the world.

- **Passionate:** By discovering and channeling connections with our gifts and talents, our passions guide and fuel our learning to achieve personal excellence.
- **Inquisitive:** Our natural curiosity about the world and the hunger to learn by asking questions is nurtured and developed.
- **Creative:** We learn by imagining possibilities, designing potential solutions, and crafting original outcomes.
- **Learning:** Through engaging in diverse, relevant experiences and reflection, we become: responsible world citizens, critical thinkers, effective communicators, collaborative workers, problem solvers, creative individuals, and self-directed, positive and adaptable learners.
- **Best for the world:** Recognizing that we need to be generous, humane, and compassionate stewards of our planet and all that rely on it, we expect active, reflective service from all members of our community.

We will inspire joyful, rigorous learning and foster wellness as a pioneering, inclusive and collaborative community.

- **Joyful Learning:** Providing those life-changing moments that sustain a sense of wonderment and a passion for inquiry.
- **Rigorous Learning:** Achieving personal academic excellence requires hard work, dedication, and striving for lofty standards.
- **Foster Wellness:** Developing resilience through value-driven healthy choices and wise decisions to achieve physical, intellectual and emotional harmony.
- **Pioneering, collaborative community:** Taking thoughtful risks and becoming innovative educational leaders in order to prepare our children for success in our rapidly changing world.



Perseverance, Integrity, Responsibility, Respect, Compassion, Balance, Fun.

- **Perseverance:** Continually striving for personal excellence despite challenges along the way
- **Integrity:** Acting ethically, honestly, and equitably
- **Responsibility:** Owning our actions to earn trust and confidence
- **Respect:** Exhibiting good manners – showing consideration and appreciation in all our interactions with others
- **Compassion:** Acting with care and empathy to positively impact others and our environment
- **Balance:** Striving to achieve physical, intellectual, and emotional harmony in our lives and our decisions
- **Fun:** Making what we do exciting and enjoyable, lest we take ourselves too seriously

We learn by reflecting and relating, by being resourceful and resilient.

JIS Dispositions

The purpose of the JIS Dispositions is to provide a foundation which supports children to become better learners, both in and out of school. Through our focus on dispositions we are creating a culture in classrooms that cultivates habits and attitudes that enable students to learn effectively and solve problems confidently, calmly and creatively. In particular, the JIS Dispositions help children become Resilient, Resourceful, Reflective and be able to Relate well to others. Children learn how to be tenacious and open-minded, imaginative and logical, self disciplined and self-aware, collaborative and inquisitive. These dispositions and skills are explicitly taught across all areas of the curriculum to support student learning and growth.

Learning & Environment

The Early Years Program at JIS is grounded in a constructivist approach, inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy and uses an inquiry lens to engage in teaching and learning.

Exploration

In the Early Years, children are provided multiple opportunities to explore a variety of learning spaces during their school day to engage their natural curiosity, wonder and observational skills. Children are motivated through provocations, play, interaction with the environment and social negotiation. They have the chance to investigate questions and areas of interest, construct and create and are provided with choice and responsibility, all while being supported in their social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language development. Exploration facilitates the integration of learning across curricular



areas and builds skills that are foundational for learning and for life.

Projects

Early Years projects are collaborative, in-depth explorations that may grow out of a sustained interest shown by the children, from a curriculum related inquiry initiated by teachers or based on a perceived need. Even if the premise of the project is conceived initially by teachers, the children give the project its focus, direction, and relevance.

Projects may vary widely, but certain aspects are always present. A project is a joint undertaking of both teachers and children, working together, with teachers focused particularly on observing and interpreting children's actions, facilitating group discussions, challenging children's thinking, supporting their work and documenting the process. The children express their ideas, listen to those of others and then work together to reach consensus on plans for moving forward. Throughout the project development, they reflect on the process, ascertain next steps and then take action.

Communication, Language & Literacy

Children are immersed in a language rich environment that builds on the foundation of oral communication. The primary goals in the Early Years are to promote and foster a love of literacy and for children to view themselves as effective communicators, readers and writers. Teachers are careful observers and researchers of all the skills and strategies children bring with them as emergent readers and writers and identify ways to appropriately nudge them forward in their literacy development. Children are invited to engage in daily reading and writing for a variety of purposes, are supported in noticing what published authors and illustrators do and encouraged to experiment and approximate these techniques in their own work. Literacy learning occurs in small and large groups as well as individually.

Mathematical Thinking & Problem Solving

Within the Early Years program, children explore a variety of real-world experiences to develop their mathematical thinking in measurable attributes, patterns, shape, space, numeracy and problem solving.

Through their explorations, projects and play, children encounter authentic situations that require mathematical thinking in order to further plan, create, build, design or analyze. Children are encouraged to work with peers and/ or adults to creatively and critically solve problems by using what they know and begin to integrate new learning. Additionally, children are challenged to engage with relevant and meaningful questions or provocations that build their understanding of mathematical concepts.

Visual Arts

Over the course of the school year, children have an opportunity to explore their ideas, thinking and creativity through a wide

range of materials. Children are exposed to different design processes and begin to develop an early appreciation of art forms that they observe and encounter in everyday life.

The gift of time is given for each idea, as some children revisit, redesign and problem solve through the process until reaching a point of satisfaction. Within the art studio, children interact with wood, clay, textiles, paint, recycled materials, natural materials and many others. Through these explorations of different media, the children are exposed to the elements of art and principles of design which formulate the “Building Blocks of Visual Art”.

Performing Arts

In the EY music program, children experiment with musical instruments and play with the concepts of rhythm, pattern, and expression through music as they explore musical elements such as pitch, volume, and timbre in a fun environment. Students also learn and sing a variety of songs and have opportunities to create their own songs.

In the EY dance program, children have the opportunity to explore creative movement, try various dance forms in which they show interest or start off their day in a mindful way through yoga. Through dance, children are able to develop body and spatial awareness, balance, coordination and creative expression.



Movement & Physical Education

The Early Years movement and physical education program combines the philosophy of Reggio Emilia with a directed movement approach that aims to develop a child's ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information. In addition, the program cultivates the development of the children's gross motor skills. Movement concepts such as locomotor (running, skipping, hopping), non-locomotor (pulling, pushing, bending) and manipulative skills (throwing, catching, kicking) are key areas of focus.

At JIS, movement education is an integral part of the overall learning process in the early years. Movement experiences take many forms, including structured physical education classes, movement opportunities integrated within other curricular areas and unstructured play during recess. Swimming pools, grass and covered play areas, gymnasia, as well as sport courts and soccer fields are used to support the

movement program in the early years. They provide places for students to become healthy, fit and skillful in their approach to physical health and wellness.

Bahasa Indonesia

As a school, we believe that learning the host country language promotes international mindedness and enhances the experience of living and learning in Indonesia.

In the early years, the aim is to expose our students to the patterns, cadence and vocabulary of the Indonesian language in a natural environment, growing their ability to use our host nation's language in real life situations.

Through music, dance and other engaging activities, our youngest learners are exposed to Bahasa Indonesia. In the early years, our host country teaching assistants also use Bahasa Indonesia as appropriate to communicate with our students.





JIS Academy

JIS Academy offers a variety of activities for children to enjoy during the school year as well as over some of the breaks. For more information please visit JIS Academy website: <https://www.jisedu.or.id/jisacademy>





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