



NURTURING JOYFUL LEARNERS
THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN

PLAY. LEARN. GROW. YOUR CHILD AT TASIS PORTUGAL



WELCOME FUTURE KNIGHTS!

VERUM BONUM PULCHRUM

TASIS Portugal is the newest campus in the TASIS family of schools, founded in Switzerland in 1956 by educator and entrepreneur M. Crist Fleming and financially supported by the nonprofit TASIS Foundation. TASIS (Switzerland) was the first American boarding school in Europe, and all TASIS schools maintain the tenets on which it was founded: truth, goodness, and beauty.

Our longstanding traditions, combined with a genuine love of children and their unique qualities, make TASIS Portugal a beautiful place for your child to play, learn, and grow.

At TASIS Portugal, we believe the earliest years are just as important as the upper grades, so we focus on developing a love of learning. Carefully planned activities build on a curriculum that, while age appropriate, introduces big ideas early.

We provide opportunities for children to learn through hands-on play while developing curiosity, problem-solving skills, and emotional maturity. This strong foundation prepares students well for their TASIS Portugal elementary school experience. We teach children to question; one of our favorite words to hear is “**why?**”

At TASIS Portugal, we raise caring, curious, competent global citizens in partnership with parents. I invite you to discover more about our special community with a visit to our campus.

Keith Chicquen, Headmaster



INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS: OUR ROBUST CURRICULUM

Through hands-on experimentation, guided lessons, and active play, our Early Learning Center students discover how things work, beginning to understand concepts in science, physics, and math without even realizing they are doing so.

We want children to be challenged, and we foster a growth mindset. Our blend of traditional and Montessori teaching methods and an emphasis on outdoor learning create an atmosphere of exploration and encouragement.

Core Knowledge Curriculum

The Core Knowledge (CK) curriculum we use is an excellent sequential, content-rich curriculum covering language arts, history and geography, art, art history, and music, with the philosophy that knowledge builds on knowledge. We begin teaching our students important ideas from the beginning of their time with us.



Reading and Literacy

Reading is one of the essential literacy skills that influences all other areas of learning. We introduce reading early and slowly, with an emphasis on phonics and phonetic awareness. Our handwriting program (Handwriting Without Tears) was developed by an occupational therapist. We want learning to be fun, so we take our time, expecting and encouraging independence and self-regulation with routines, expectations, rights and responsibilities, and game-playing.

Singapore Math

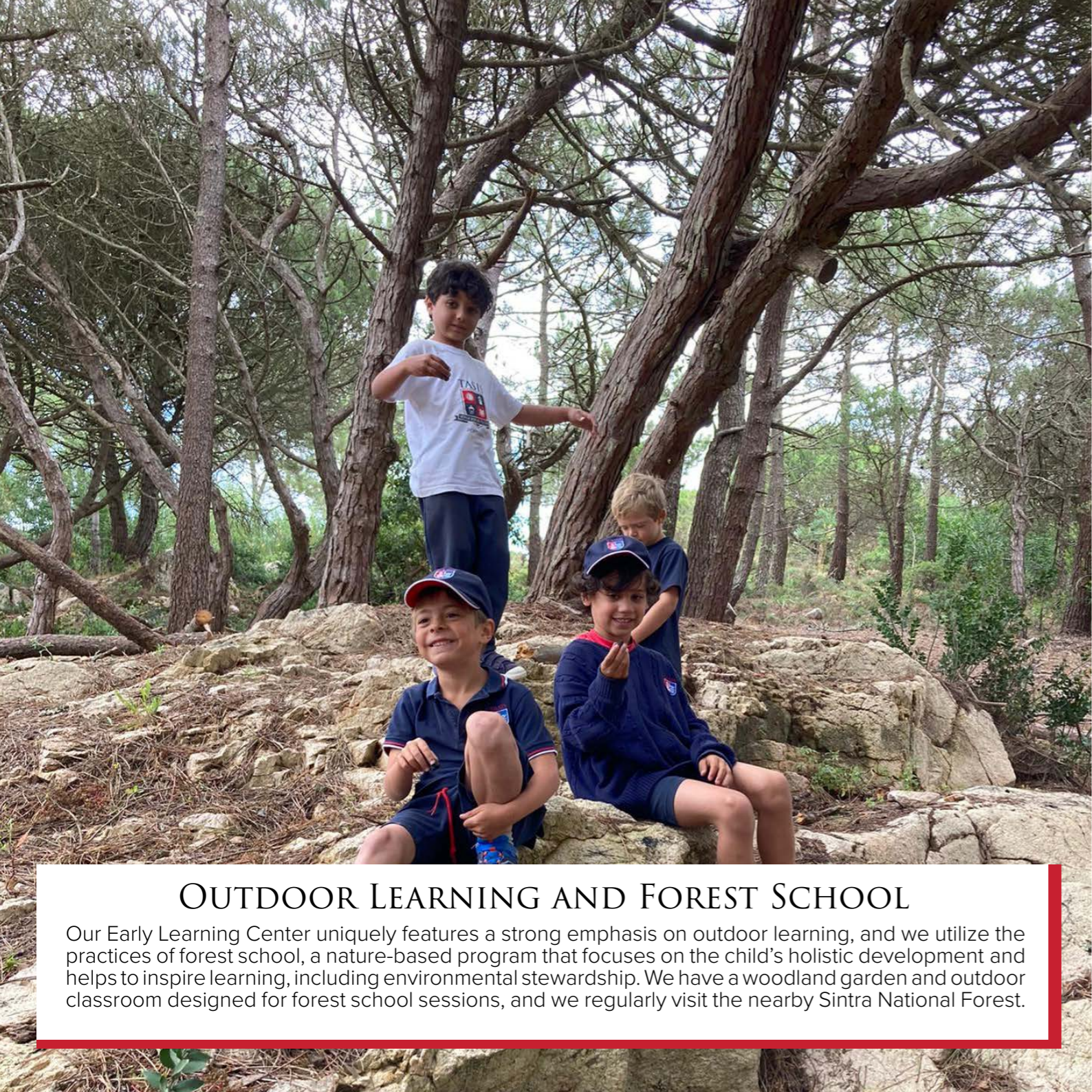
We utilize the Singapore Math program, widely considered the best method of teaching mathematics. As we introduce math, the children learn to use manipulatives and apply things they are doing to other classroom learning, becoming familiar with the concepts involved in deep problem solving. It is not enough for children to simply learn a skill – we think it is also important for them to understand why they are learning it.



Science

Our Early Learning Center students begin to learn the principles of science through exploration and experimentation. The outdoor classroom is built expressly to help students learn the basics of measurement, hypothesis, cause and effect, and much more, in a way that emphasizes fun, not competition.





OUTDOOR LEARNING AND FOREST SCHOOL

Our Early Learning Center uniquely features a strong emphasis on outdoor learning, and we utilize the practices of forest school, a nature-based program that focuses on the child's holistic development and helps to inspire learning, including environmental stewardship. We have a woodland garden and outdoor classroom designed for forest school sessions, and we regularly visit the nearby Sintra National Forest.

ENRICHING EVERY DAY: SPECIALIST CLASSES

The Early Learning Center features its own dedicated specialist teachers, who teach coding, art, music, dance, and more.

Coding and Robotics

Preparing students for their futures means preparing them to navigate the ever-changing world of technology. We devote significant time to teaching children the art and science of coding, as well as the fun and learning of robotics, from the earliest years. We encourage the values that will guide them as they use technology ethically and safely. We recognize that technology is important, but its use in the classroom is limited and specific.

Yoga and Mindfulness

Yoga promotes mindfulness—the ability to be fully present in the moment and aware but not reactive. A growing body of research indicates that training the brain to be mindful can remodel its physical structure. Yoga increases flexibility, reduces stress and anxiety, and leads to better overall health.

Language

To be a true global citizen means understanding cultures that are different from your own. There is no better way to do this than to learn another language and become immersed in its speakers' traditions, celebrations, food, and daily life. In the Early Learning Center, we provide two levels of differentiated Portuguese instruction to support beginner and native speakers. Children whose first language is not English have the opportunity to develop their language skills through a variety of differentiated opportunities including one-to-one and small group lessons.

Music and Art

We believe children should be exposed to fine paintings, great music, and other inspiring examples of art. Our early instruction in the arts is noncompetitive and provides many opportunities to sing, dance, listen to and perform music, play act, read and write poetry, draw, paint, and make objects.

Performing Arts

Our performing arts program provides a range of opportunities for students to perform vocally, musically, dramatically, and in dance. We encourage students to explore their interests and provide a space for all to participate and feel comfortable expressing themselves, discovering the ways they feel most creatively inspired.

Physical Education

We believe physical education is as important to a child's growth, health, and development as other core subjects. Our physical education program is created to meet the needs of all students, keeps them active, teaches self-management, emphasizes knowledge and skills for a lifetime of physical activity and, best of all, is fun!

CARE IN THE CLASSROOM

We believe that effective pedagogy involves a range of techniques: Montessori teachers give individualized instruction that enables each child to progress through the curriculum at their own pace. The traditional teaching method is designed to teach the whole class and provide focused differentiated activities. In our Early Learning Center, these two approaches are linked: we provide focused direct teaching for individuals and groups, as well as whole-class learning opportunities. All teachers are close observers, assessing individual children's needs and planning next learning steps for each child.

Our Early Learning Center classes boast qualified full-time teachers and learning assistants, with an adult-to-child ratio of about 1:8. This allows our teachers to effectively track student development and gain a better understanding of a child's strengths and passions, while keeping classrooms at an optimal size for diversity and social development.

Healthy Eaters

Parents visiting our Early Learning Center are often surprised to see that our youngest students are robust and healthy eaters. We boast an exceptional dining service partner that prides itself on creating nutritious meals children want to eat. In our dedicated ELC dining room, every child sits down for meals to learn manners and etiquette as well as the value of making healthy choices. Every day, children are served a fresh whole-food lunch and two snacks, and second and third helpings are common.

Partnership with Parents

We consider the raising of successful students to be the result of a partnership between parent and school. Parents are encouraged to be involved, communicate regularly with teachers, and participate in our active TASIS Parent Association (TPA). Your support in developing good habits at home is crucial to your child's development.



Experts in their Field

Our teachers recognize that every individual learns at their own pace and respect each child's unique learning path. Students' success later in life demands that they master fundamental academic and social-emotional skills, not move forward whether they are ready or not. This international faculty is highly trained and enjoys continuous professional development.



ELLI SKILLS

In the Early Learning Center, we use the Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory (ELLI) program to teach important learning skills and traits. ELLI's seven learning characteristics are each represented by an animal. A child-friendly story introduces the animals and their skills to the children, enabling pupils to relate their learning skills and their emotions to the story.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Our curriculum features continuous assessment and our teachers observe students closely — we know them well and communicate often with parents about progress. We believe in addressing issues before they become problems.

We are not interested in advancing children before they are ready. Their success later in life demands that they master fundamental skills, not move forward whether they are ready or not.

Glow and Grow

We use “Glow and Grow” reflection time for children to evaluate themselves and discuss with their peers and teachers their strengths and goals. This method helps children become their best selves.

- **Glows** are the positive things: what we are proud of, or what we want to keep doing to move forward.
- **Grows** are anything that can serve to elevate our learning, perseverance, problem solving, and ability to adapt.

In “Glow and Grow” children relate to the effective lifelong learning skills that they learn as part of our social and emotional education. They reflect on the skills in which they are confident, and those they might need to develop to overcome challenges. Children communicate their reflections through drawings, writing, and conversations.

Behavior and Emotion

When we understand a child's feelings, we are better able to identify the areas in which they need support. By using a proactive response to student actions, such as identifying appropriate choices, the nurturing of emotionally healthy behavior is fostered.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which students understand and manage their emotions, set and strive for positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions through proactive problem solving.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a school-based structure that encourages the acknowledgment of positive student behaviors. Rather than focusing on a child's challenges, educators strive to highlight a student's successes by rewarding prosocial habits.

While PBIS and SEL stand well on their own, together they contribute to a robust pastoral program in which the priority is the promotion of a child's inner being.

AT THEIR OWN PACE

At TASIS Portugal, we realize that not every child reaches developmental milestones at the same time, so our teachers are dedicated to creating an environment in which learning is tailored to your student's needs. Through observation, care, and guidance, we ensure that each student is individually challenged while developing the confidence that comes with achieving important goals when they are ready.

Finger Gym : Development as Play

Finger Gym is a comprehensive program of developmental games, stories, rhymes, and activities that improve fine motor skills, language, and handwriting. It has myriad benefits, including:

- 👉 Developing strong, flexible fingers, hands, and arms
- 👉 Promoting better hand-eye coordination, differentiated movement, and manual dexterity
- 👉 Fostering children's use and understanding of spoken language
- 👉 Building cognitive abilities and providing opportunities to practice self-regulation

Flag Time

Co-created by our teacher Andrea Davis, the Flag Time program is an effective and precisely differentiated instruction strategy that promotes valuable learning while fostering independence, self-confidence, and risk-taking. It builds on varied opportunities for assessment to motivate and encourage children to take the next step in all areas of their learning.

Flag Time provides activities that attend to individual needs, considering readiness, learner profile, and interest. Although children follow a fixed routine, the content and skills they work on change daily, as do the groupings and support provided.





BIG PICTURE THINKING FOR LITTLE ONES

Our Early Learning Center is a magical place. Mindfully designed by our experts in early childhood education and growth, it encourages creativity, exudes comfort, and kindles young imaginations.

Our bright, colorful, purpose-built campus features eco-conscious materials and classrooms created with areas for group and solo play, learning, and listening. Our focus is on growing functional independence and self-regulation, good manners, and caring for others and the environment.

Our extraordinary outdoor classroom and playground, conceived and developed by our ELC director, are used daily and help children develop basic skills, learn science and math concepts while having fun, and foster the interpersonal skills that are essential for living and leading successfully in today's ever-shrinking world.

There is a strong emphasis on the basics and school readiness in every Early Learning Center classroom. We promote the skills of self-regulation with routines, expectations, and a set of rights and responsibilities the students create. We want our students to be independent.



"We designed our classroom to have both indoor and outdoor components to allow for daily outdoor learning. I am delighted that TASIS Portugal has embraced the forest school ethos and designed an eco-friendly outdoor classroom. We also plan to use the natural environment nearby to help our students learn and grow. We look forward to welcoming you for a visit so you can see our program in action!"

ELC DIRECTOR KERRY TRIGG

TASIS



PORTUGAL

DISCOVER THE TASIS
DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF.

Contact us today:
+351 926 712 399
admissions@tasisportugal.org

WWW.TASISPORTUGAL.ORG