Welcome to ISK's Pre-Kindergarten Program

Where Learning Comes to Life

At ISK, we believe learning is the construction of meaning built through inquiry-based experiences that transcend disciplines. Our dedicated Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) program nurtures and empowers our youngest learners in a rich, holistic environment that sets the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

Program Highlights

- **Mixed-Age Learning Community**: Children ages 3-5 learn together. Children are clustered into two mixed-age pastoral groups of 16-18 students. These groups interact together in various parts of their day.
- **Collaborative Teaching**: Two teachers and two teaching assistants work together to create a rich learning environment
- **Flexible, Child-Centered Spaces**: Children flow between our specially designed areas, including a dedicated early years playground and three classroom spaces.
- **Responsive Curriculum**: Children engage with a responsive curriculum that rotates through units on a two-year timeline, ensuring varied learning experiences each year.
- **Specialist Classes**: Daily engagement in specials classes, including music, PE, library, and swimming

Our Unique Approach

We view children as capable individuals who actively construct their own understanding. Our program features:

- An emergent curriculum that follows children's interests while meeting educational objectives
- Natural, open-ended materials that encourage creativity and exploration
- Integrated social-emotional learning throughout the day
- Flexible scheduling that responds to children's needs and interests
- A strong partnership between home and school

Intakes

We hold “intakes” quarterly as part of the admissions process to determine a child’s readiness for our Pre-K program. During these half-day sessions, our educators observe key areas of development, including social-emotional readiness, communication skills, and cognitive and motor abilities. These sessions help ensure every child is set up for success.

Tel +254-20-209-1308/9 or +254-733-639-363
communications@isk.ac.ke | www.isk.ac.ke
PO Box 14103 Nairobi 00800, Kenya

Schedule and Transition

- School Hours: 8:20 AM - 3:20 PM (1:25 PM on Wednesdays)
- A gentle start to the school year with half-days for all Pre-K students ensures a smooth and supportive transition, allowing children to gradually adjust to their new environment at a comfortable pace:
    - 4-year-olds: Approximately 3 weeks of half-days
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    - Flexible transitions based on individual readiness
- The official school year begins a few days after the rest of the school due to intakes
- Time daily for resting or napping

Assessment and Growth

We track your child's progress through:

- Learning stories that capture conceptual understanding
- The GOLD developmental continuum (including physical development, language development, cognitive development, and social-emotional development)
- Regular communication with your child's pastoral teacher
- Comprehensive progress reports

Program Requirements

- Children must be 3 years old by July 31st for year one of the program; children entering year two of the program must turn 4 years old by September 15th
- Children must be fully toilet-trained
- Ability to express basic needs
- One and two-year program options are available based on age and development

Our Community Approach

Your child will be part of a caring community where:

- Teachers collaborate across pastoral groups
- Children gradually integrate with peers beyond their primary group
- Learning spaces are designed to be calming and inspiring
- Every child's unique voice and journey is celebrated

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