

**Think one kid can  
change the world?  
*We do.***



**Early Childhood Education**

**— Junior Kindergarten & Kindergarten —**

**The most important investment we can make in a child's future happens earlier than most people realize.**

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## Early Childhood Education

Between birth and age six, the brain develops more rapidly than at any other time in life—shaping how children think, learn, build relationships, and understand the world. Exceptional early education during this window lays the foundation for everything that follows.

At Carolina Day School, our Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs are intentionally designed around how young children grow. Just as importantly, this is where children begin to see themselves as learners. They discover that their ideas matter, that questions are encouraged, and that challenges are part of growth.

Early childhood education is where confidence takes root and a lifelong love of learning begins.



Scan to watch a video  
about Early Childhood  
Education at Carolina Day

### Why These Years Matter More Than You Think: The Science Behind Early Education

During these formative years, the foundations of how children think, learn, build relationships, and understand the world are formed. Exceptional early childhood education fosters this critical period of development, establishing the cognitive, social, and emotional groundwork for lifelong success.

**CDS programs are intentionally designed around how young children grow and learn.** Through guided play, exploration, storytelling, early literacy, hands-on math, and collaborative experiences, children develop essential skills that research consistently identifies as predictors of long-term success: curiosity, resilience, language development, emotional regulation, and problem-solving.

**Equally important, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten are where children begin to see themselves as capable learners.** They discover that their ideas matter, that questions are welcomed, and that challenges are opportunities for growth. These early experiences shape a child's confidence, motivation, and willingness to take intellectual risks for years to come.

**Investing in a child's education at ages four through six pays lasting dividends.** Studies consistently show that children who participate in excellent early childhood programs demonstrate stronger reading and math skills, greater social competence, and higher levels of academic persistence throughout their entire education. Just as importantly, they develop the interpersonal skills—communication, empathy, and collaboration—that help them thrive in college, careers, and life.

Carolina Day School's Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to set children on a stronger path toward a fulfilling future.



## Junior Kindergarten

### The Year That Changes Everything

Junior Kindergarten at Carolina Day is thoughtfully designed for four-year-olds, providing the time and space they need to build confidence, independence, and readiness for what comes next.

Through hands-on experiences, imaginative play, and guided exploration, students strengthen the developmental foundations that support future academic success—while becoming part of a vibrant school community.

Students begin to experience the rhythms of school life: visiting the library, exploring campus, interacting with older students, and understanding what it means to belong.

By the time they enter Kindergarten, they do so with confidence, familiarity, and a strong sense of self.



## Kindergarten

### Where Curiosity Becomes Confidence

Kindergarten at Carolina Day builds on the strong foundation established in Junior Kindergarten, guiding students toward greater independence and deeper learning.

As children grow, they begin engaging in more sustained learning experiences. Teachers introduce longer periods of focus, increased responsibility, and deeper exploration of early literacy and numeracy.

Students continue to learn through creativity, movement, and collaboration—while developing the confidence, voice, and academic readiness needed for elementary school.

By this stage, children are not just learning skills—they are beginning to understand themselves as capable, contributing members of a community.

## What's the Difference Between Preschool and Junior Kindergarten?

While both programs nurture curiosity and a love of learning, Junior Kindergarten is intentionally designed as a bridge to Kindergarten.

Preschool serves a wider age range—typically ages two to five—and focuses on introducing foundational skills through play and exploration.

Junior Kindergarten builds on that foundation. Designed specifically for four-year-olds, it introduces a more intentional learning environment that supports a confident transition to Kindergarten.

Students develop strength in:

- Early literacy and numeracy
- Independence and social responsibility
- Physical development and coordination
- Creativity and problem-solving

With increased structure, focus, and stamina introduced gradually, children are well-prepared—and *excited*—for what comes next.

# More Reasons Parents Choose Carolina Day



## Experiential Learning

At Carolina Day, we believe the foundation of early learning begins with movement, imagination, and human connection.

In the early years, children are developing critical gross motor skills—running, climbing, balancing, building—that strengthen both body and mind. These physical experiences support attention, coordination, and the stamina needed for future academic learning.

That's why our Early Education classrooms intentionally focus on hands-on exploration and experiential learning. Through a more analog education we allow children to:

- Develop strong motor skills
- Build meaningful social relationships
- Strengthen creativity and imagination
- Engage fully with the world around them

There will be plenty of time for digital tools later. In these early years, children benefit most from being active, tactile, and being curious together.



## A Community That Grows With Your Child

Parents choose Carolina Day because it offers:

- **A purposeful transition into elementary school.** Children develop the stamina, independence, and confidence needed to thrive.
- **Expert educators who understand the full learning journey.** Our teachers understand how early development shapes future academic success.
- **A strong foundation for lifelong learning.** Students develop curiosity, resilience, and a love of discovery.
- **Early belonging within a vibrant school community.** Children see the path ahead of them and begin building relationships across campus.
- **Continuity and trust for families.** Parents gain a trusted partner who will guide their child's growth for years to come.



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