

Transitional Kindergarten

Explained



What is TK?

Transitional Kindergarten Students



Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two year Kindergarten

TK Teaching Philosophy:

We believe that a child's work is play

We try to enhance that play, but never replace it! A favorite Mr. Rogers quote says "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play IS serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." Transitional Kindergarteners learn by doing, playing, talking, listening, and modeling others. We will support their learning journey this year by providing a rich and fun classroom environment to stimulate and guide their experiences.





The Transitional Kindergarten(TK) program is taught by early childhood educators with the goal of helping students develop skills that will support their lifelong academic success. Student success is achieved through P.L.A.Y (Playful Learning All Year)– the fundamental pathway to maximize learning, engagement, and independence in our students

In TK, students will be guided through targeted experiences that will develop:

- Social–Emotional skills
- Appropriate and safe classroom skills
 - Fine and Gross Motor skills
 - ELA and Math skills
- Social Studies and Science skills
 - Music and Art skills

Social Emotional Skills

- **Communication**
- **Identifying emotions**
- **Self–regulation**
- **Self– reliance**
- **Problem solving**
- **Negotiating**
- **Empathy**



Gross and Fine Motor Skills

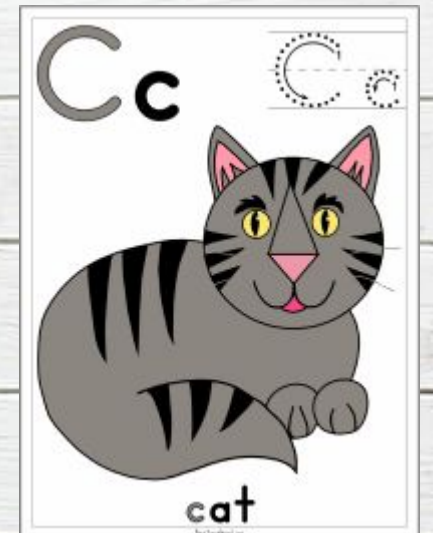
- Walking/Running
- Jumping/Skipping
- Balancing
- Coordinating movement
- Drawing lines, curves, shapes
- Letter formation
- Cutting with scissors
- Finger grasp
- Coloring neatly



English Language Arts Skills

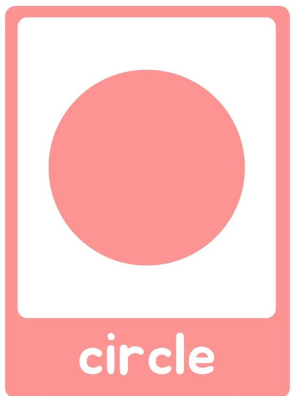


- **Phonemic Awareness** (rhyming, oral sound identification, etc)
- **Phonics** (text–sound correlation, ie: letter names and sounds)
- **Concepts of print** (how to navigate written text and literature)
- **Literacy skills** (fiction/ non–fiction, author, illustrator, setting)
- **Writing as a group and as an individual** (letters, words, illustrations)

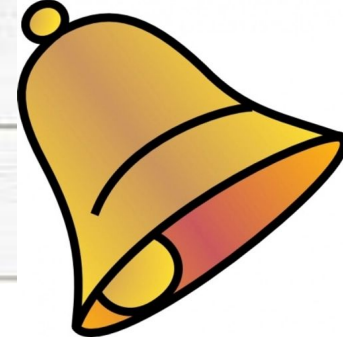


Math Skills

- Counting (1–20)
- Number recognition (1–20)
- Number sense (composing and decomposing numbers)
- Shapes (2D and 3D shapes)
- Comparing groups and numbers
- Sorting/Comparing (by size, shape, color, etc.)
- Graphing information
- Position words (in front, behind, on top, etc.)



Components of the Day



The day will include:

- Opening - Greeting, attendance, flag, calendar, weather, music and movement
- Learning Centers - small group learning with an academic focus of the day
 - Language Arts-phonemic awareness, phonics, rhyming, letters, sounds
 - Mathematics- Number Awareness, Counting, Shapes
 - Science: Life-Cycles, Weather, Earth Science
 - Social Science: Calendar skills, Holidays, Community, World history
 - Fine motor skills development throughout
- Choice Time- child-initiated play with a social emotional and social skills focus
- Snack and Recess- building our social skills and large motor growth
- Literacy Time - Reading to build a love of literature, poetry, and non-fiction text
- P.E. and Library - once each week (with P.E. teacher and Librarian)
- Closing - remembering our learning for the day, passing out papers, good-byes

Restrooms

Students need to be *independent* while using the bathroom

To encourage success at school, please practice toilet skills at home and in public spaces to build confidence/skills



- Please ensure that your child is able to undress, wipe, flush, dress, and wash their hands independently. (*Teachers are not allowed to assist students with toileting, dressing, or undressing)
- Pull-ups are allowed in TK, as long as students can manage independently. Soiled pull ups may require parent/guardian to assist with change in health office.
- Restrooms are located inside our TK classroom.
- Accidents happen. We appreciate students having an extra set of clothes in their backpack for emergencies. (shirt, underwear, shorts/pants, socks in a ziploc bag)
- PLEASE HELP US BY MAKING SURE YOUR CHILD USES THE RESTROOM BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL. Thank you!

Welcome to a wonderful year in TK!
Your student will grow by leaps and bounds this year, setting a strong foundation for lifelong learning success. We are so happy to share in the journey with you and your student!

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Warmly-

Mrs. Koelzer

Mrs. Vandermeyde



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