

The Kindergarten Core Curriculum

In kindergarten, core concepts should be integrated across all curriculum areas. Reading, writing, and mathematical skills should be emphasized as integral to the instruction in all other areas. Personal relevance of content is always an important part of helping students to value learning and should be emphasized.

Kindergarten students engage in many activities that help them develop oral language and literacy. Kindergarten students take part in language activities that extend their vocabulary, conceptual knowledge, and phonological awareness. Students learn to follow directions and develop the language of schooling.

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points for kindergarten are developing whole-number concepts and using patterns and sorting to explore number, data, and shape. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged in using concrete materials and appropriate technologies such as calculators and computers.

In kindergarten, students learn about themselves and their relationship to the classroom, school, family, and community. Students are expected to develop skills in posing simple questions, measuring, sorting, classifying, and communicating information about the natural world. Students learn about their bodies and the behaviors necessary to protect them and keep them healthy. They learn basic body control while beginning to develop motor skills and moving in a variety of settings. Students become aware of strength, endurance, and flexibility in different parts of their bodies. They express their thoughts and ideas creatively, while challenging their imagination, fostering reflective thinking, and developing disciplined effort and problem-solving skills.

Kindergarten
Fine Arts, Health, Physical Education, Science, and Social Studies

Standard I: Students will develop a sense of self.

Objective 1: Describe and practice responsible behaviors for health and safety.

- a. Describe proper care of the body (e.g., proper brushing of teeth, eating a variety of foods, proper hand washing, sneezing into sleeve).
- b. Recognize that food is fuel for the body.
- c. Recognize signs of physical activity (e.g., heart rate, breathing, sweat).
- d. Identify helpful and harmful substances to the body.
- e. Recall basic safety (e.g., follow rules, maintain personal space/boundaries, know phone number, address, emergency number).

Objective 2: Develop skills in gross and fine motor movement.

- a. Participate in regular physical activity that requires exertion (e.g., walk, jog, jump rope).
- b. Explore a variety of fundamental and manipulative gross motor skills (e.g., hop, skip, twirl, dance, throw, catch, kick, strike).
- c. Perform a variety of fine motor skills (e.g., draw, cut, paste, mold, write).
- d. Maintain personal space and boundaries while moving.
- e. Create and perform simple dance movements that express who one is, knowledge of the body, feelings, senses, and ideas in time and space.

Objective 3: Develop and use skills to communicate ideas, information, and feelings.

- a. Identify and express ideas, information, and feelings in a variety of ways (e.g., draw, paint, tell stories, play, make believe, dance, sing).
- b. Recognize similar colors as being members of the family of reds, blues, and yellows and shapes as being similar to squares, circles, and triangles.
- c. Describe sounds in terms of dynamics (loud/soft), pitch (high/low), duration (long/short; fast/slow), and timbre (tone of an animal, human, musical instrument, or machine).
- d. Develop competency in beat accuracy and respond to an understanding of beat as a life force through moving, singing, chanting, or playing instruments.
- e. Express emotions by selecting and playing a variety of simple rhythm instruments.

Standard II: Students will develop a sense of self in relation to families and community.

Objective 1: Describe factors that influence relationships with family and friends.

- a. Identify ways individuals are alike and different.
- b. Identify contributions of family members.
- c. Describe how children change over time.
- d. Identify behaviors to initiate play and develop friendships.
- e. Demonstrate positive interactions with peers and adults.

Objective 2: Identify important aspects of community and culture that strengthen relationships.

- a. Recognize and follow family and classroom rules.
- b. Describe the school community (e.g., students, teachers, secretary, custodian, principal).
- c. Describe resources in the community (e.g., police officer, firefighter, library, museum).
- d. Describe cultural traditions in family and community.
- e. Recognize national symbols and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Objective 3: Express relationships in a variety of ways.

- a. Recognize traditions, music, dances, artwork, poems, rhymes, and stories that distinguish cultures.
- b. Develop skills in storytelling through moving the body and making sounds while pretending to be characters in a familiar story.
- c. Create and perform/exhibit dances, visual art, music, and dramatic stories from various cultures.
- d.

Standard III: Students will develop an understanding of their environment.

Objective 1: Investigate changes in the seasons.

- a. Identify the seasons and represent each with pictures and songs.
- b. Observe and describe typical weather for each of the seasons.
- c. Describe the information each of the five senses provides with the changing of seasons.
- d. Observe and describe changes in behavior of animals as the seasons change.
- e. Describe how people change their behavior as the seasons change.

Objective 2: Observe and describe animals in the local environment.

- a. Observe, describe, draw, and compare familiar animals.
- b. Describe how young animals are different from adult animals.
- c. Describe how animals care for their young.
- d. Observe and imitate the sounds and movements of animals with songs, dances, and storytelling.
- e. Distinguish between real and make-believe animal behaviors.

Objective 3: Recognize symbols and models used to represent features of the environment.

- a. Recognize that maps and globes are symbols for actual places.
- b. Identify items on a map of the classroom.
- c. Explore basic map and globe directions and characteristics (e.g., top, bottom, right, left, land, water, Arctic Ocean, Antarctica).
- d. Make representations of things observed in the environment (e.g., drawing, painting, building structures with blocks, making models with clay).

Kindergarten Intended Learning Outcomes

The main intent at the early grades is for students to value learning and develop the skills to gain knowledge and understand their world.

The Intended Learning Outcomes described below reflect the belief that kindergarten, first, and second grade education should address the intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and ethical development of children. While the Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade Core Curriculum focuses primarily on content and the intellectual development of children, it is important to create a classroom culture that fosters development of many aspects of a person. By nurturing development in these interrelated human domains, young people will be healthy and discover varied and exciting talents and dreams. They will be socially and civically competent and able to express themselves effectively.

The outcomes identified below are to provide a direction for general classroom instruction, management, culture, environment, and inclusion. These outcomes should be interwoven throughout the Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade Core Curriculum, which offers more specific and measurable standards for instruction.

Beginning in kindergarten and by the end of second grade students will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate a positive learning attitude.**
 - a. Display a sense of curiosity.
 - b. Practice personal responsibility for learning.
 - c. Demonstrate persistence in completing tasks.
 - d. Apply prior knowledge and processes to construct new knowledge.
 - e. Voluntarily use a variety of resources to investigate topics of interest.

- 2. Develop social skills and ethical responsibility.**
 - a. Respect similarities and differences in others.
 - b. Treat others with kindness and fairness.
 - c. Follow classroom and school rules.
 - e. Include others in learning and play activities.
 - f. Participate with others when making decisions and solving problems.
 - g. Function positively as a member of a family, class, school, and community.

- 3. Demonstrate responsible emotional and cognitive behaviors.**
 - a. Recognize own values, talents, and skills.
 - b. Express self in positive ways.
 - c. Demonstrate aesthetic awareness.
 - d. Demonstrate appropriate behavior.
 - e. Express feelings appropriately.
 - f. Meet and respect needs of self and others.

4. Develop physical skills and personal hygiene.

- a. Respect physical similarities and differences in self and others.
- b. Learn proper care of the body for health and fitness.
- c. Develop knowledge that enhances participation in physical activities.
- d. Display persistence in learning motor skills and developing fitness.
- e. Use physical activity for self-expression.

5. Understand and use basic concepts and skills.

- a. Develop phonological and phonemic awareness.
- b. Decode, read, and comprehend written text and symbols.
- c. Develop vocabulary.
- d. Develop reasoning and sequencing skills.
- e. Demonstrate problem-solving skills.
- f. Observe, sort, and classify objects.
- g. Make and interpret representations, graphs, and models.
- h. Recognize how content ideas interconnect.
- i. Make connections from content areas to application in real life.

6. Communicate clearly in oral, artistic, written, and nonverbal form.

- a. Share ideas using communication skills.
- b. Predict an event or outcome based on evidence.
- c. Use appropriate language to describe events, objects, people, ideas, and emotions.
- d. Listen attentively and respond to communication.
- e. Use mathematical concepts to communicate ideas.
- f. Use visual art, dance, drama, and music to communicate.