Kindergarten Program Overview

In kindergarten, children are taking a critical step into the educational realm. Aldar Academy strives to instill a love of learning in each child. It is imperative for kindergarten students to build a strong foundation for learning that will establish a pattern for continued success in the future. We believe that our holistic program, which fosters the growth of the entire individual, can meet these goals. Children are challenged academically, learn to take on personal responsibilities, and are encouraged to show respect to self and others. We believe that every child has a right to learn in a safe and nurturing environment.

Language Arts (includes reading, spelling and writing) Language Arts in kindergarten is a literacy-rich program supported by a strong phonetic base with emphasis on the individual child’s reading continuum. Students are introduced to phonemic awareness, decoding, comprehension skills, oral language and writing. They develop their core knowledge of phonemic awareness and decoding by rhyming, learning initial and final consonants, and blending sounds and short words. Their comprehension skills are developed by comparison and contrast, inference and making predictions, story structure, and summarization of topics discussed in class. Oral language in the students is developed by encouraging the use of descriptive, position, action, and rhyming words. Writing skills are introduced to the student by keeping journals, making lists, writing stories, poems and letters. Children are exposed to a wide range of poems, plays, and literature, while simultaneously developing comprehension and critical thinking skills. Each story offers a new adventure with rich, colorful illustrations that make reading fun and exciting.

Mathematics The kindergarten mathematics program emphasizes a process of exploration and discovery with extensive use of manipulative materials. Students are introduced to numbers, mathematic operations, and the basics of: geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability, algebra and mathematical processes through a multi-sensory approach of sorting, patterns, shapes, graphs, charts, counting and simple monetary transactions and calculations. They develop a positive attitude toward math by incorporating activities, which introduce math concepts into their daily activities. Children are able to make broader connections to the outside world through math extension activities.

Social Studies At the kindergarten level, the main emphasis of the social studies is on helping children understand themselves and others, and their world around them. Students are introduced to the concepts of history and culture through thematic literature, illustrated narratives, and activities. Students become familiar with important historical figures that have shaped American civilization. Furthermore, Aldar Academy embraces diversity, so children learn about international holidays, cultures, and traditions that are celebrated around the globe. Kindergarten students also learn about personal health, safety, and our community, as well as other themes that are beneficial and of high interest to this age group. Periodic field trips are taken throughout the year that correspond to the monthly themes. Field trips provide active learning experiences and indelible memories for students of all ages.

Science Kindergarteners begin to develop their understanding of physical and life sciences through the use of visual resources, literature, and teacher directed experiments. The students develop an understanding of life sciences by exploring the need for plants and animals, the concept of development through growth and changes, the importance of land, water, and air, as well as weather and the seasons. They expand on their understanding of physical science by exploring matter, heat, light and movement. They explore space and technology by understanding the concepts of day and night, and the mechanics of machines. Workbooks, flip charts, and DVD clips are also used to enhance science instruction.

Music/Drama The purpose of music and drama in kindergarten is to introduce them to the joy and fun of musical expression. Children will sing songs both familiar and new to them to help develop their sense of pitch. Movement is also introduced to help children with coordination skills. Children are exposed to the concepts of music and terms through practice and encouraged to develop their listening skills by the continued exposure to important composers and their works. Composers such as Victor Herbert and Richard Rodgers are studied. They develop a positive attitude for music through singing, clapping rhythms, playing instruments, and listening to a wide range of music.

Art Students are exposed to the basic artistic concepts along with a wide range of artists and works of art. They are introduced to the lines, shapes, forms, spaces, light, textures, and colors of artwork through observations, discussions and modeling. Painting, drawing, collage, and projects provide students with opportunities to express their ideas and emotions.

Physical Education Students begin to develop an understanding of physical activity, team sports, and sportsmanship through a variety of individual and group activities, games, and organized sports. The students develop coordination, grace and control, along with a sense of fair play and cooperation. They are provided opportunities in planning, organizing, and leading sports activities.

Computers Students begin to develop their typing skills by utilizing Interactive Software, and reinforce their reading and math skills through the use of grade specific materials. In addition, they develop an understanding of technology and it’s usefulness in the classroom through individual activities and programs.