

N'sheemaehn's Kindergarten Curriculum

Welcome. Together, we are about to embark on a great journey: the beginning of your child's formal education. At N'sheemaehn, we realize that parents are children's first teachers. They have encouraged the development of language, skills and interests throughout the pre-school years. This support continues to be important during the kindergarten years and beyond. It is for this reason that we will expect your participation, questions and input from this point onwards. Education becomes a shared responsibility when parents, caregivers and teachers work together for the well-being of every child.

Kindergarten teachers understand that children develop at different rates and learn in different ways. The shift from one stage of development to the next varies with each child. Children move back and forth across stages as they experiment with new ideas, concepts and materials, forget, relearn, and finally understand. It is important to note that maturation cannot be accelerated, but learning can be enhanced at any age. The kindergarten program provides experiences for young children to play, to listen and talk, to share and co-operate and to continue to develop their skills and interests. Children learn naturally through play, and they are encouraged to play both individually and in groups. During the school day, the children are provided with learning centres, activities, games, equipment, materials and situations that help them discover their own intellectual, emotional, social and physical challenges and strengths. It is through their active participation that children learn.

There are many goals of the kindergarten program. Among these, we aim to encourage self-confidence and the development of a positive self-image. We will attempt to hone in on children's natural curiosity as a way of making meaning of the world around them. We will assist children in establishing good work habits, including concentration and the ability to persevere and complete a task. We will provide opportunities for growth in all areas of the curriculum - language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social and environmental studies, the arts, and physical and health education. We will contribute to the development of children's more precise motor skills and more refined social skills as well as looking for every opportunity to cultivate problem solving skills.

We will strive to provide students with a secure, stimulating environment that supports and encourages the growth of self-confident, creative individuals who are capable of making, and being responsible for, their own decisions - both now and in the future. We will build our program on the changing interests and needs of the children, in support of their continued growth and development as individuals and as a community of learners.