

Wellcome to SIS International Kindergarten

Our Aim

At SIS Kindergarten we want to make a difference to the life of your child through quality educational programmes taught by qualified and motivated early childhood educators. Through play based learning and individually designed facilities and lessons we aim to create a community of learners who love school and celebrate their achievements with pride. Our primary goal is to develop young people who are happy and self-confident, and are able to make positive contributions to the world around them.

1. SIS KINGERGARTEN

Our Philosophy

We believe each child is a unique individual and that through child centered play based learning each has the potential to grow and learn as well as developing the skills and qualities for lifelong learning in a safe and nurturing environment. Play is the way in which young children make sense of their world. The individual needs of children can be accommodated in a flexible, play-based environment. Activities are provided that reflect the interests, needs and abilities of the students. Children have opportunities to develop their self-confidence and to receive positive feedback for their achievements. In the preschool we use many strategies to encourage learning through play. Strategies include modeling by teachers and peers, pictures and visual supports are used to promote communication, play sequences and interactions between peers. Stories, investigations group time (small and large), art, music & pretend play are used to implement the school's curriculum within a play based context.

What your child learns at kindergarten

Our play based curriculum uses extensive research that tells us play helps young children improve their thinking skills, social skills and problem solving skills. Children learn social skills by playing with other children and sharing equipment. Play allows your child to share and take turns while developing coordination and confidence. All students will be supported to learn in a safe and nurturing environment with quality safe equipment and trained assistants and teachers. Kindergarten is a wonderland of painting and story time; of talking and listening; of exploring the world; and of making new friends.



2. Curriculum Areas

- **Personal and Social Development** Children enter preschool with a set of experiences that have developed their self - concept in a community and family environment. In this stage of education our goal is to foster a sense of self outside the family, to learn and practice socialization skills and for the child to begin to explore how they learn. With challenging play and learning choices, children are given the opportunity to try out their problem-solving skills, investigate and work together as a team in order to accomplish daily learning tasks.
- **Phonics:** Phonics awareness prepares students to become independent readers through systematic, multisensory instruction in phonemic awareness and decoding skills.

- **Literature and Comprehension:** Plenty of read-aloud literature awakens the imagination and also builds comprehension and vocabulary. The emphasis is on classic literature-fairy tales, fables, and folktales—including many works that explore multicultural themes and values.
- **Language Skills:** For our students to develop their reading and comprehension skills there will be a focus on poems, songs, nursery rhymes, and riddles that help students develop comprehension, vocabulary, and a love of language. Vocabulary is explored through the world of the child at school and at home which lays the foundations for the writing process whereby students brainstorm, discuss, illustrate, write, and share ideas with others.
- **Creative Arts:** The students will be introduced to play based storytelling through dance, art, drama and music as well as using activities that develop and refine fine motor skills and gross motor skills. Our play equipment is safe and designed to encourage children to explore and develop these skills in a safe and caring environment.
- **Handwriting:** Handwriting instruction is done through the use of a variety of worksheets and texts that use gentle instruction to help students print letters correctly. This includes encouraging pre-writing practice, introducing appropriate pencil grip, proper line and stroke formation, lower- and uppercase letters, writing dictated letters and numbers, correct direction and order, left-to-right directionality and consistent, grade-appropriate size.
- **Mathematics:** Students learn through reading, writing, counting, comparing, ordering, adding, and subtracting. They experience problem solving and encounter early concepts in place value, time, length, weight, and capacity. They learn to gather and display simple data. Students also study two- and three-dimensional figures—they identify, sort, study patterns, and relate mathematical figures to objects within their environment.
- **Health and Physical Education:** The use of a play based curriculum with teacher guided instruction in health and hygiene as well as structured activities to encourage fine motor skills- writing, zipping, tying laces and gross motor skills- running, skipping, climbing and jumping are an essential component of day to day activities.
- **Scientific Exploration** through teacher guidance and structured activities students will be encouraged to explore the natural and physical world around them. Children are natural scientists and their curiosity leads them to seek answers to questions and make connections. By experimenting, making predictions, exploring, testing observations, and investigating, children learn about the world they live in.



3. Our Teachers

All teachers in the kindergarten have experience in early childhood education programming and delivery. They are carefully chosen to suit the needs of the schools multi-age grouping and have undertaken training in delivering the curriculum we have designed for your child. At SIS we take a teamwork approach and through collaborative planning and teaching strategies aim to make a safe, fun and stimulating learning environment.



4. Our Programmes

Teachers are encouraged to design their classroom learning around a theme that changes regularly and offers an opportunity for students to learn in a cross curricular mode. All learning is based on sound educational theory and practice which includes the use of learning centers, incorporating the principles of multiple intelligences, small group and individual instruction, cooperative learning strategies, shared practice and highly focused classroom assistants. Play is a way that children make sense of their world and current research shows clear evidence that the use of this basis for learning personalizes their experiences and engages students in active learning alongside explicit and formalized instruction. There is explicit teaching and development of not only literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge but also the range of vital social, emotional and life skills. As learners of English as a second language play based learning encourages a strong focus on success in oral language development prior to tackling the much harder tasks of reading and writing.



5. Our Classrooms

A kindergarten classroom needs to be free to encourage integrated learning, play, socialization and formalized instruction. All facilities and equipment have been chosen with great care and attention to the needs of the environment and learning focus. Our colorful and well equipped classrooms will allow your child to explore learning in a multitude of ways and through a wide variety of tools, toys, books, exercises and teacher designed activities.





6. What a day might look like.

Example Timetable for Morning Programme Pre K

TIME	LEARNING ACTIVITY / FOCUS	RESOURCES
7:50- 8:00 AM	School Greeting good morning and opening song	Song sheet Teacher /Student cooperation
8:00-8:15 AM	Students move to classrooms, settle attendance and teacher student good morning	Teacher, attendance sheet
8:15-8:45 AM	Circle time- storytelling, sharing singing learning centers as all children settle	Teacher generated theme Question of the day
8:45-9:20 AM	Gross Motor Skills activities; Health and hygiene focus washing hands, balance, walking, jumping, walking over/under obstacles alternated with Library time	Physical Education/ Health/ Social Emotional Outcomes
9:20-9:30 AM	Drinks/Bathroom	Healthy Eating Programme Health and Hygiene
9:30-10 :15 AM	Snacks/Playtime	
10:15-10:40 AM	Activity time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine motor skills- drama activities Buttons, tying shoes, art using pencil crayon skills Puzzle activity centers Structured role play 	Learning Centers Textbook Work Teacher generated worksheets
10:40-10:50 AM	Drinks/ Bathroom/Snacks/Playtime- Nap for those who are tired or not engaging	Sleep Room Reading Corner
10:50-11:15 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art/ Craft/ Colouring in/Singing/Dancing/ Role play 	Teacher generated Worksheet or textbook activities
11:15- 11:30 AM	Pack up/ clean up/ goodbyes/ home	

Example Timetable for Morning Programme Kindergarten K1 –K2:

TIME	LEARNING ACTIVITY / FOCUS	RESOURCES
7:50- 8:00 AM	School Greeting; good morning and opening song	Song Sheet Teacher/ student cooperation
8:00-8:15 AM	Students move to classrooms, settle attendance and teacher student good morning	Teacher and attendance sheet
8:15-8:45 AM	Circle time- storytelling, sharing singing or letter of the day alternated with Library time	Books, Theme related question of the day
8:45-9:15 AM	Gross Motor Skills activities; Dancing, either freestyle or through songs with movements, such as "I'm a Little Teapot," Walking, jogging, skipping, running: balance activities, ball activities etc	Physical Education , Social and emotional, Language Arts Curriculum
9:15-9:45 AM	Drinks Bathroom breaks	Healthy Eating Programme Health and Hygiene
9:45-10:20 AM	Activity time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language arts Small motor skills Science Art Drama Music Maths 	Learning Centers Worksheets Textbook activities Teacher chosen curriculum focus

10:20-10:50 AM	Play and snack time	Healthy Eating Programme
10:50-11:20 AM	Circle time debriefing and winding down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song and dance –letter of the day/week • Storytelling –letter of the day/week • Craft /Art -Theme work 	Teacher / Student generated theme related
11:20- 11:30 AM	Pack up/ clean up/ goodbyes/ home	

Activities typical in a kindergarten day include;

- Reading books and sharing what they have read with the teacher, each other and the assistants
- Playing games with language, mathematics, role sharing and team work
- Physical education focusing on gross and fine motor skills
- Using visual stimulus and aids to explore a learning theme
- Using art and drama to explore what they have read or done during a lesson
- Using Learning Centers focusing on fine / gross motor skills, science, mathematics, language, art and social and emotional health(manners, sharing, caring, fair play)



7. Parents as partners

At SIS we believe that the parents also have an important role to play in their child’s education and we encourage our teachers to invite parents to participate in learning activities, field trips and as partners in the classroom. We encourage all parents to be part of their child’s learning journey and welcome you to join us for activities or as a classroom helper. If you would like to be part of their day at any time please inform your Childs teacher or the Education Manager/ Vice Principal and they will organize a time for you to come and join the fun. All students will have a communication book which will be used to report to parents on a weekly basis and that tracks their development across all the learning areas. We encourage you to share and celebrate this with your child each week and to use it to communicate with the classroom teacher your concerns, encouragements or important information we may need to ensure your child is able to make full use of the learning programme here at SIS Kindergarten. During this academic year we will hold Parent information mornings where the programmes will be explained, where you can discuss and share your ideas, changes or important events will be outlined and ways we can work together to help your child and our Kindergarten be the best they can be.



8. The School Year

The school year runs from September through to July and then the students have a break for the month of August – or they may wish to join our two week fun summer school programme. The year is broken into 3 terms and the dates for the 2013 / 2014 academic school year are;

Term 1: September 9th – December 20th

Term 2: January 8th – April 11th

Term 3: April 21st – July 25th

This completes the academic year at SIS kindergarten and all students are also welcome to attend our Summer School programme for 2 weeks in August. This is a fun programme designed to celebrate the year, have some fun and go on field trips whilst learning and socializing.



As the foundation Vice Principal and moving into our second year I am excited and eager to share this learning journey with your child. I believe that by working as a community and by being open and welcoming to you and your family we will build a strong, happy and confident learning community. Welcome to our kindergarten where the learning is fun, fun, fun.

Karen McArthur
Vice Principal / Education Manager
Singapore International School Kindergarten
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