



Kindergarten Curriculum

All material in the Triple R Kindergarten program meets and exceeds the Common Core State Standards for Kindergarten. Below is a short summary of our Kindergarten curriculum, including the resources we use to teach the material.

Reading

Reading is taught through Whole Language and Phonics. Resources used in teaching reading include the *Scott Foresman Reading Street Common Core program*. We follow the Common Core path to *Close Reading*, using the Super Sleuth tips:

1. Look for Clues/Gather Evidence
2. Ask Questions
3. Make Your Case
4. Prove It!

Close reading involves focused, sustained and rereading of a text for the purpose of understanding key points, gathering evidence, and building knowledge. When students read closely, they give the time and attention needed to fully understand the information in a text and are able to cite specific evidence from it.

The core program includes a variety of reading components, including big books, practice books, Reader's & Writer's notebook, Common Core Writing to Sources, leveled readers, decodable readers, Strategic intervention readers, picture cards, graphic organizers, and phonics songs and rhymes. The Reading Street curriculum is also divided into four different areas: Oral Language, Shared Reading, Word Work, and Language Arts.

The Hands-On Alphabet Activities for Young Children provides a unique approach to reading. The program incorporates poems, art activities, and specially designed letter books. This program brings together whole language and phonetic approaches by providing children with “real” reading experiences as they master the letters and sounds of the alphabet.

Reading is reinforced by using the following activities:

- **Journals and Young Authors** – Children each get a chance to do creative writing and add original words to stories.
- **Reading Aloud** – Each child reads a book out loud to the class. Also, during the last semester each kindergarten child is assigned a pre-kindergarten student as a Book Buddy to read to each week. This helps children overcome shyness and become more comfortable speaking in front of their peers.

Over 80 high frequency words are introduced throughout the school year. Words are taken from the *Dolch Word List*, a list of the most frequently found words in school books, library books, newspapers and magazines. When children learn these words, they have a solid foundation for beginning reading.

Library

Triple R Child Care has a library where students are able to check books out for a one week time period. This will give the students the chance to read books of interest, gain responsibility, and supplement the reading and language arts they are taught on a daily basis. Students may check out and return books during their designated time.

Mathematics

Math is taught through a program called *enVisionMATH Common Core*, which is based on critical foundational research and proven classroom results. *enVisionMATH Common Core* was built from the ground up to meet the Common Core State standards, Mathematical Practices are deeply rooted in the curriculum. These practices promote student success in mathematics.

Unlike many state curriculum frameworks, the Common Core State Standards do not present a spiral curriculum in which students revisit numerous topics from one year to the next with progressively more complex study. Rather, the CCSS identify a limited number of topics at each grade level, allowing enough time for students to achieve mastery of these concepts. The subsequent year of study builds on the concepts of the previous year.

enVisionMATH Common Core organizes content by domain, and all topics for each domain are grouped together:

1. Counting and Cardinality
2. Operations and Algebraic Thinking
3. Number and Operations in Base Ten
4. Measurement and Data
5. Geometry

Gross & Fine Motor Skills

Our gross motor program includes hopping, skipping, jumping, galloping, catching, throwing, balancing, and walking backwards. Children are able to incorporate these motor skills into simple games with rules, outdoor play, and by use of indoor gross motor equipment. Fine motor skills taught are shoe tying, string or rope tying, buttons, snaps, zippers, knowing right & left, puzzles, and manipulatives.

Science

Experience Science (Houghton Mifflin) is a complete series of elementary science modules designed to cover major content areas in Life, Earth, and Physical Science. This research-based program provides classroom-tested, hands-on activities and is designed to require minimal implementation support. The activities encourage divergent thinking and inquiry skill development, while building understanding of scientific concepts and content. Each module includes students readers selected to cover and extend science content presented in the hands-on activities.

The five modules taught in Experience Science are:

- 1.) Alive (Life cycles and plant structures)
- 2.) Earth (Water, weather, and the earth's resources)
- 3.) Magnet (Magnet strength and what stick's to a magnet?)
- 4.) Matter and Heat (Properties of matter and floating and sinking)
- 5.) Sound (speaking and hearing and changing pitch)

Social Studies

Geographic thinking is introduced, using maps and a globe of the earth, as well as introducing children to directions (north, south, east, and west). The children also are introduced to the 50 states and have the chance to embark on a special project called Flat Stanley. Each week, the children also receive Let's Find Out children's newspaper, which often covers social topics. The children are also introduced to leaders of the world, community helpers and are taught to recognize and appreciate similarities and differences in people.

Arts and Crafts

Our goal is to offer children many opportunities to create in their own ways. When children create, our role is to support and observe, always allowing children to direct both the process and the product of their art. Some of the concepts our students learn are:

- Proper use of art materials such as paint brushes
- Coloring in the lines
- Cutting along the lines with scissors
- Doing Holiday and themed projects

- Proper use of gluing strategies
- Proper grip and use of scissors
- Being able to draw simple shapes

Handwriting

The students will learn proper handwriting techniques by using Traditional manuscript. Students will how to:

- Communicate through words and pictures
- Capitalize the first word in an sentence
- Punctuation at the end of a sentence
- Write left to right
- Space between words

Computer Skills

The students will have many opportunities to use the in class computer during their day. They will be able to:

- Locate general computer components
- Gain keyboarding skills (simple typing, location of keys)
- Do well-supervised research on the internet
- Play educational games during recess and free-time

Language Arts

Kindergarten students will develop an understanding of phonetics, vocabulary and comprehension by:

- Recognition of upper and lower case letters
- Phonics of letters
- Recalling the beginning, middle and end of stories
- Dictating words/sentences to be written
- Understanding the difference between statements and questions
- Writing simple sentences
- Retelling stories in own words
- Nouns, verbs, and adjectives are introduced
- Use of complete sentences

Kindergarten students will use language and express their opinions throughout the day both verbally and within their play.