

Welcome to Junior Preschool
“Exploring My World”



Parent Handbook

Kiddie Academy of Bolingbrook
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Introduction

Kiddie Academy has developed a strong and meaningful preschool curriculum, *Life Essentials*[®], that has been recognized both state-wide by the Gold Circle of Quality from ExceleRate Illinois and nationally by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

One of the most important components of a child's learning experience is the partnership between home and school. As you prepare to enroll your son or daughter in our program, our teachers and administrators will be available to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to contact us at 630-679-9400 or at bolingbrook@kiddieacademy.net.

Statement of Purpose

Successfully navigating the milestones of early childhood development is essential in preparing your child for school. Our goal is to nurture and guide children, inspiring them to develop a lifetime love of learning. This is what distinguishes Kiddie Academy from traditional preschool.

Our Teaching Philosophy

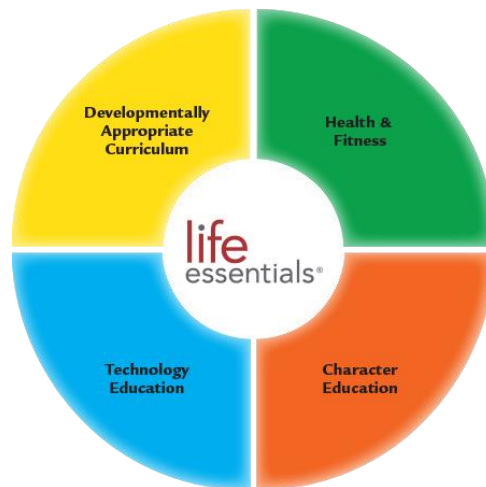
We recognize the need to provide equity in educational opportunities for each child, and we balance that need by including a range of approaches to learning, respecting diversity, and encouraging best practices. Kiddie Academy has strived to create a curriculum that not only focuses on developmentally appropriate academic standards, but also addresses the social and emotional development of the whole child.



Life Essentials

The Kiddie Academy Life Essentials® curriculum is based on a central principle of early learning: children learn through direct experiences by using their own creativity in an environment that encourages curiosity and exploration, while teachers act as facilitators to guide and support play-based learning. Our curriculum supports programs, methods, activities and techniques to help children blossom into prepared students and good citizens.

Life Essentials® is based on four pillars of education: developmentally appropriate curriculum, technology, health & fitness and character education, giving your child a happier, healthier and more well-rounded foundation for the future.



Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on a central principal of early learning- teachers getting to know children on every level, including how they learn, play and communicate. We personalize learning with individual attention fitting each child's interests and abilities. We use early childhood education research to establish best practices and intersperse the learning process with fun.

Technology Education

We blend technology into each day as a natural extension of learning. Our curriculum teaches computer literacy skills and provides opportunities to use technology to learn in fun and exciting ways.

Health & Fitness

The health of your child and the development of healthy habits is a priority. We focus on teaching children how to stay healthy by making good food choices, incorporating physical exercise and maintaining healthy personal habits every day. Healthy choices now will empower children to make healthy decisions later in life.

Character Essentials

Teaching values is as fundamental as teaching children how to read. Character Education teaches the "whys" and "hows" behind the behaviors. Character Education is woven into daily experiences, enhancing children's relationships at home, school and in the community. We teach values through planned lessons and authentic interactions that are integrated into various group and individual activities.

Early Learning Development

Here are some examples of milestones your child will meet by the end of the year:

<p style="text-align: center;">Language and Early Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds verbally to an adult's questions or comments. • Uses "w" questions to initiate and expand conversations ("who" "what" "why"). • Names most objects and people in a familiar environment. • Comprehends compound statements and can follow multi-step directions. • Speaks in three-word utterances. • Begins to use pronouns and prepositions correctly. • Uses some adjectives in speech. • Has a vocabulary of more than 300 words. • Participates in early literacy activities independently (sits and browses through pages of book). • Recites parts of a book from memory. • Scribbles in more orderly fashion and begins to name what he or she has drawn. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Social/Emotional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicates wants and needs more thoroughly. • Seeks caregiver support when feeling overwhelmed by emotion; may reject support as well. • Attention expands and stays focused on an activity or object even when distractions are present. • Begins to express complex emotions such as pride, embarrassment or guilt. • Names people in his/her family and shares stories about them. • Participates in sharing, when prompted. • Begins to engage in more complex play with two or three children. Begins to demonstrate an emerging ability to understand someone else's feelings and to share in the emotional experiences of others.
<p style="text-align: center;">Cognitive Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates the ability to connect pieces of information in understand objects, ideas and relationships. • Recalls and applies past experiences. • Completes simple puzzles with less trial and error. • Begins to label and think symbolically to engage in increasingly complex social interactions and play. • Has a greater understanding of causation, and can predict and choose specific actions to attain a desired result. • Begins to undertint progressive number order and count objects, but may count objects twice or skip numbers, • Identifies various attributes of objects, food and materials (color, size, etc.) 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates and engages in music, movement and dramatic play activities to interact with others and express ideas, feelings and emotions. • Expands use of objects and toys in new and unexpected ways. • Takes on familiar roles during play. • Creates an art project and creates a simple story to accompany the artwork

Physical Development and Health

- Stand on one foot with support and maintains balance for a brief period of time.
- Throws a ball.
- Pedals a tricycle with both feet.
- Walks on tiptoes, walks backwards and runs.

Fine Motor Development

- Scribbles with intent and begins to draw circles and lines on own.
- Demonstrates the desire and ability to participate in and practice self-care routines, such as undressing oneself and brushing own teeth.



Preschool Program Frequently Asked Questions:

How does Kiddie Academy's Preschool Program compare to other centers or Public Preschool Programs?

Students in the Kiddie Academy full-day Preschool Program will benefit from a curriculum that meets and exceeds the Illinois State Preschool Standards. Children will have extended learning experiences that allow for more in-depth exploration of the core curriculum. Our program has limited enrollment which ensures smaller class sizes conducive to more individualized interactions between our teacher and students.

How does Kiddie Academy's Preschool Program prepare my child for Kindergarten?

Our staff has worked closely with the local school districts to ensure that the children are well prepared for Kindergarten. Our curriculum is designed to get our children ready to learn in Kindergarten, while our teachers guide children on policies and procedures for their local school district. The feedback that we have received from previous graduates confirms that our students enter Kindergarten confident to learn.

What schedule will the Kiddie Academy Preschool Program follow?

Our Preschool is a full-day program where your child is free to attend the hours you need. It is highly recommended that your child attend at minimum the hours of 9:00am-1:00pm Monday through Friday since the core of the program will be focused during this time.

How will students be selected for enrollment in the Kiddie Academy Preschool Program?

Enrollment is limited and will be on a first come first serve basis.



KIDDIE ACADEMY. EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE

7:00 – 8:15	Music and Movement
8:15 – 8:30	Transition Clean-up, diapering and hand-washing
8:30 – 9:00	Family Style Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15	Community Time Children come together to welcome each other, read aloud, song or finger play
9:15 – 9:30	Transition Diapering, hand-washing and music and movement
9:30 – 10:00	Gross Motor Play Water break
10:00 – 11:15	Free Play and Small Group Activities Hand-washing when returning to the classroom All centers open Diapering as scheduled or needed
11:15 – 11:30	Transition Clean-up, diapering and hand-washing
11:30 – 12:00	Family Style Lunch
12:00 – 12:30	Transition Diapering Nap-time routine
12:30 – 2:30	Nap Time Children are changed as they wake up
2:30 – 3:00	Snack Hand-washing as transitioning to music and movement
3:00 – 3:15	Music and Movement
3:15 – 3:45	Gross Motor Play Water break
3:45 – 4:00	Transition Diapering & hand-washing
4:00 – 5:15	Free Play Blocks, fine motor, dramatic play and books Diapering & hand-washing
5:15 – 5:30	Transition Clean-up and hand-washing
5:30 – 5:45	late afternoon snack Hand-washing prior to transitioning to next activity
5:45 – 6:00	Music and Movement and/or Story Time Departure

*Schedule subject to change based on the individual needs of the classroom

*Curriculum – Exploring My World