

## **Preschool Curriculum**

Our preschool curriculum is aligned to the Arizona Early Learning Standards, which were developed for all children 3-5 years of age. These standards serve as a guide in providing a quality program that is developmentally appropriate for each child. The curriculum for our different content areas support these standards and instructional methods.

We believe that children learn through experience and discovery. Our goal is to prepare children to enter Kindergarten with a healthy self-concept and a positive attitude toward school and learning. This is accomplished by offering age appropriate curriculum designed to develop social, emotional, physical and cognitive abilities in our students. Since every child is unique, our preschools are designed to allow children to initiate activities that grow from personal interest and intentions. Through exploration, our preschool students interact with materials, people, ideas and events. Our preschool teachers encourage active learning by providing resources, planning experiences and creating an inviting environment in which all children can learn.

### **English Language Arts - Big Day for PreK:**

Big Day for PreK is the base for our weekly themes and activities. "In Big Day for PreK, each day is organized around three Big Experiences: whole group, circle time, and story time lessons. These experiences were designed to provide an anchor for conversation, play and learning. Carefully selected activities ground the entire class in a common Big Experience. Big Experiences provide integrated learning opportunities and introduce children to new vocabulary, concepts and skills. Big Day for PreK provides intentional instruction in all learning domains."

<http://www.hmhco.com/products/big-day-pre-k/>

### **Alphabet and Phonics – Foundations:**

The Foundations Pre-K Activity Set supports students' emerging understanding of the alphabetic principles of letter-sound associations and alphabetical order, and the written language skill of manuscript letter formations.

<http://www.wilsonlanguage.com/programs/foundations/overview /curriculum/pre-k-activity-set/>

### **Science – ECHOS:**

"ECHOS: Early Childhood Hands-On Science": The curriculum consists of nine thematic units focused on Life, Earth and Physical Science, and are delivered over a one-month period. Read-aloud storybooks connect key concepts to unit themes. The goal of *ECHOS* is to investigate science as a domain for enhancing overall school readiness and to demonstrate that very young children can learn fundamental science concepts.

<http://www.azscience.org/educators/professional-development/echo/>

### **Math – ORIGO:**

ORIGO is our math program. It was developed using current brain research that supports how early childhood students learn foundational mathematic concepts. “The learning experiences within Stepping Stones Pre-K are planned so children interact in an informal environment with play-based, child-initiated explorations, and guided instruction activities, where appropriate. Everyday activities are used to empower children when learning new mathematical ideas.”

<http://www.origoeducatio.com/>

### **Physical Education – OPEN:**

OPEN is a movement exploration curriculum for preschool/early childhood. It is designed to provide developmentally appropriate physical activity experiences that work toward developmental outcomes and indicators. Instructional content is designed to foster the development of knowledge and skill in six main movement exploration categories – Movement Concepts, Balance, Locomotor, Manipulative, Health and Nutrition, and Social and Emotional Development.

### **Teaching Strategies GOLD:**

This is our preschool assessment tool that is used throughout the school year to collect student data in 10 areas of development: social-emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts and English-language acquisition. The data collected informs every aspect of teaching, including predictors of school success, and is aligned with state early learning guidelines.

<https://teachingstrategies.com/>

If you have any preschool curriculum questions, please contact your preschool teacher. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,  
Santan Elementary Preschool Teachers