



Junior Primary Curriculum

Our Junior Primary program combines a love of learning with a sense of fun, self-discovery, critical thinking and individual achievement. We provide teacher-directed, child-centered activities in a caring and nurturing environment.

Play is universally recognized as the primary vehicle through which children learn, so we provide a significant amount of indoor and outdoor playtime throughout the day. Our materials and learning activities are relevant to the children's personal interests and developmental needs, allowing for discovery and skill development through thoughtful experiences, as well as hands-on exploration and manipulation of a variety of tools provided over an intentional timeline.

In Junior Primary, we plan for a smooth transition into Primary by working together with the Primary teachers to ensure that our program prepares the children for optimal learning in their later years. We provide the tools for reading, writing, and math, as well as good social skills, which lay the necessary foundation for success.

Our Focus

Independence, Social Development, and Empathy

- bathroom, dressing for indoors/outdoors, snack preparation and clean up, lunch, playtime indoors/outdoors, social stories during play, school routines
- Roots of Empathy, Second Step, Liturgies

Literacy Readiness, Phonics, and Letter and Number Recognition

- music, rhymes, fingerplays, word exploration, board games, puzzles, books, books, books!
- focus on naming and recognizing A-Z, own name before other words and letters
- Jolly Phonics

Pre-writing and Writing Skills and Letter and Number Formation

- use of chalkboards with chalk and sponges, whiteboards, playdough, sand, threading, fingerpainting, goop, paint, crayons and pencils, scissors, markers
- focus on proper pencil grip; printing own name before other words; upper case and lower case
- Handwriting without Tears (HWT)

Early Mathematical Concepts and Number Sense

- music, fingerplays, circle games, board games, peg boards, counting as we go, serving snack, unifix cubes, Phys-ed, Collections, Math Bags
- focus on naming and recognizing numbers up to 10, counting, understanding one-to-one correspondence up to five; introduction to classifications, graphing, and patterns.
- Handwriting Without Tears & Dimensions Math program

Recurring Themes

Getting to know me, my family and my world

Developing inner tools for resilience; learning kindness and respect towards others, ourselves, and our environment; encouraging curiosity through awe and wonder

Growth Throughout the Year

Handwriting Without Tears, Jolly Phonics, Seeing Stars, Dimensions Math

- *letter and number recognition, printing, phonological awareness, numeracy concepts*

Roots of Empathy & Second Step

- *social and emotional competence, anti-bullying*

Quiet Time

- *developmental growth & caring for self through daily rest (Sept. – Dec), reading to oneself (January–March), listening to chapter books (March–June)*

Reading Buddies

- *social development, community building, love of books*

Arts and Crafts in Class

- *develop agency, explore themes, understand colour, shape, size and texture, observational, creative, fine motor, science, listening, story exploration, intro to famous art work*

Show & Tell and Monday News

- *public speaking, individuality, builds confidence and competence in language, literacy & math*

Circle Time

- *restorative-style conversations, community building, counting (calendar), mini-lessons in letter recognition and formation, literacy development through books, songs, games & fingerplays*

Cooking (January to March)

- *science, math, sensory, story engagement and development*

Library Visits (April to June)

- *community building, safety and awareness, love of books, independence*

Special Events

- *School Blessing, Terry Fox Run, Christmas Nativity, liturgies, birthdays, Colour Days, Grandparents Day, Conge, End of Year Celebration*

Assessment & Reporting

Teacher observations, HWT documentation, Gesell & High Scope developmental checklists, parent meetings, Learning Stories, and report cards.