

Why is Early Childhood Education Important?

- ❖ Pre-School offers an opportunity for growth, promoting social and emotional development and the early foundation for the skills needed to thrive academically.
- ❖ Holistic development through our curriculum that supports cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development with imaginative play focused on achieving age-appropriate milestones.
- ❖ Established schedules balance self-directed and teacher-directed activities. This both nurtures their curiosity and creates an environment that is interesting and meaningful for our earliest learners.
- ❖ Children learn independence by taking care of themselves and others. Students are expected to wash their hands before snack time, keep personal belongings in their “cubby,” and put away toys before moving to a new activity. They engage in “real work” by assisting in the classroom, for example, leading the daily calendar or feeding the class fish.
- ❖ Promotes language and cognitive skills by engaging them in activities. The classroom setting and teachers help build vocabulary and through exploration of ideas (centered around weekly themes) that stretch their language skills.
- ❖ Classroom activities in Pre-School increase pre-math and literacy skills better preparing students for Kindergarten.





Is your child ready to start school?

- ❖ Demonstrates the early stages of independence, wanting to “do it” themselves
- ❖ Shows growing interest in skills that “older” kids you meet at the park or social gatherings are doing
- ❖ Would benefit from more social interactions
- ❖ Is starting to focus for longer periods of time on simple tasks
- ❖ Enjoys learning new things
- ❖ Can spend short periods of time away from you
- ❖ Has been in daycare and you want a more structured and rigorous learning environment

How can you prepare your child for the transition to school?

- ❖ Arrange for an orientation visit
- ❖ Share pictures of their visit to help them remember
- ❖ Set-up playdates with new classmates. We will help connect you with other families
- ❖ Start or complete the potty-training process.
- ❖ Slowly lengthen the amount of time they spend away from you
- ❖ Create a morning routine prior to the first days of Pre-School. They will feel secure in knowing their routine



Frequently Asked Questions

❖ **How old do they need to be?**

Sept. 1st is the cut-off; children must be 3 in PS and 4 in PK

❖ **What are the options for number of days or hours they attend?**

If your student isn't ready for a full day/full week, we offer a flexible schedule starting with 3 Half Days to 5 Full Days. Students can expand their schedule as they become ready for longer or additional days.

❖ **Is there extended-care?**

Yes, Early Care start at 7AM and Extended Care lasts until 6PM, staffed by our teachers & aides. You may use it as necessary and will be billed at the end of each month for actual time used.

❖ **What if they haven't reliably completed potty-training?**

Accidents are expected for newly trained children, and the start of school could cause some setbacks. We will work with you on a plan to help make the transition. If they aren't progressing with the training, please let us know and we will work with you on an alternate start date, pending room available.

Next Steps

The Application process is completed online through our website (theacademysja.org) under the Admissions tab Applications are reviewed in the order they were received. Priority enrollment is given to siblings of current students and alumni.

❖ **When will I know my student has been accepted for Pre-School or Pre-Kindergarten**

New families will be notified of their acceptance based on space available as soon as their application has been reviewed and the student meets the age deadlines

❖ **Tuition for the 24/25 School year will be released no later than January 15, 2024. You will receive an enrollment packet to complete registration**



Milestones

Expectations and Achievements

MILESTONE	Pre-School (3's)	Pre Kindergarten (4's)
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Listens to and repeats stories ❖ Can follow simple directions ❖ Recognizes letters in their name ❖ Understands words such as in, on, and under 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Asks questions and engages in conversations ❖ Actively participates in discussions ❖ Uses words to solve problems ❖ Explains similarities and differences
Pre-Reading Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Knows and can say letters of the alphabet ❖ Understands storytelling and enjoys books ❖ Will connect stories and real-life experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shares ideas and thoughts in pictures & print ❖ Makes predictions about stories & outcomes ❖ Names words that begin with a given letter
Pre-Math Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Knows by sight and counts numbers 1-10 ❖ Copies and repeats simple patterns ❖ Demonstrates one-to-one correspondence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Knows by sight the numbers 1-50 ❖ Identifies geometric shapes ❖ Understands length, mass, and capacity
Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understands a limited number of commands ❖ Engages in songs and playful activities ❖ Can identify words combined with visuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understands basic expressions ❖ Can pronounce basic words and phrases ❖ Introduced to colors, numbers

Milestones

Expectations and Achievements

MILESTONE	Pre-School (3's)	Pre Kindergarten (4's)
Life Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shifts from parallel to cooperative play ❖ Appropriately expresses & responds to feelings ❖ Cooperates / negotiates with peers ❖ Washes hands and cleans up spills ❖ Treats classroom materials with respect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Is aware they are a member of a community ❖ Adapts to new experiences and change ❖ Takes responsibility for classroom tasks ❖ Makes eye contact when conversing ❖ Helps others in need and exhibits empathy
Fine Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Uses materials such as glue and scissors ❖ Paints with brushes and fingers ❖ Manipulates Play-Doh & clay ❖ Engages in sustained make-believe play ❖ Shares in group songs and rhymes ❖ Sings, skips, dances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Draws a person with head, torso, and limbs ❖ Drawings reflect ideas and feelings ❖ Creates intentional objects from clay ❖ Cuts on the line with scissors ❖ Can identify and echo various types of music ❖ Participates in rhythmic movement
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Develops awareness of body in space ❖ Catches balls with hands and throws objects overhand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Throws, kicks, and catches large balls ❖ Runs, gallops, climbs, hops, and walks heel-to-toe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Develops a sense of rules and fair play ❖ Enjoys the camaraderie of teams 	