

Language Arts

Our kindergarten curriculum is a unique blend of reading, phonemic awareness and writing. We use a variety of materials and strategies to develop reading skills. Throughout the year students will participate in Readers Workshop, Writers Workshop, and word work to develop into confident, successful readers and writers.

Reading

In kindergarten, reading is taught through the Reading Workshop Structure consisting of whole group teacher directed mini-lessons, individual and small group work, independent daily reading opportunities, partnership reading opportunities and whole group share time. Lessons are both teacher and student directed. The shared philosophy of Readers Workshop provides daily read alouds, assessment based instruction tailored to students' strengths and needs, opportunities for students to talk and write about their reading experiences, reading high interest, accessible books at the student's level of choosing, opportunities for long stretches of reading time, as well as having teachers who demonstrate a love of reading.

Unit 1: We Are Readers

This unit welcomes kindergarteners into the world of reading by helping them see themselves as readers. Students learn to choose books they love and develop the habits of reading—such as sitting still, turning pages carefully, and paying attention to print. Teachers introduce important reading routines and help children understand that reading is fun and meaningful. The unit emphasizes developing enthusiasm for books and beginning to recognize familiar words and letters.

Unit 2: Super Powers

In this unit, students discover their “super powers” as readers—strategies and skills that help them tackle tricky words and understand stories. Kindergarteners learn to use pictures, initial sounds, and context clues to solve unknown words, building confidence and independence. The focus is on fostering problem-solving skills and encouraging children to take risks while reading, celebrating small victories as they grow stronger readers.

Unit 4: Bigger Reading Muscles

This unit deepens students' ability to read with confidence and comprehension. Kindergarteners continue to strengthen strategies for solving words and understanding stories, including using punctuation and expression to make reading more meaningful. They also begin to notice patterns in

texts and think more critically about characters and events. The focus is on expanding reading stamina and reading with greater fluency and understanding.

Unit 5: Becoming Avid Readers

The final unit encourages students to become avid, enthusiastic readers who choose books independently and read widely. Kindergarteners build a love of reading by exploring different genres and topics that interest them. They learn to set reading goals and monitor their progress, developing lifelong habits of reading for pleasure and learning. The unit celebrates students' growth and independence as confident readers.

Writing

For writing we also use a workshop model with a new mini-lesson taught each day. When the year begins we spend time working on developing speaking skills and how to tell a story. We also spend time daily teaching students how to draw and illustrate their stories. As the year progresses students start to capture small moment stories of things that have actually happened to them in their writing. They are encouraged to draw and label pictures and eventually record the text that goes with their story. As they become more confident writers, kindergartners are introduced to other types of writing such as informational writing and poetry.

Unit 1: Launching the Writing Workshop

This unit sets the stage for a vibrant writing workshop where kindergarteners begin to see themselves as writers. Students learn the routines and rituals of writing time and start writing about topics they care about, often through drawings and early attempts at writing words. The focus is on developing a positive writing identity, building writing stamina, and understanding that writing is a way to share ideas and stories.

Unit 2: Writing for Readers

Kindergarteners learn to write with an audience in mind by creating pieces that can be read and understood by others. This unit emphasizes crafting clear messages through drawings, labels, and words, helping children understand that writing communicates ideas. Students practice adding details to their pictures and words, and begin to write sentences that tell stories or share information, building confidence and clarity in their writing.

Unit 3: How-To Books: Writing to Teach Others

In this unit, students explore writing procedural or "how-to" texts to teach readers how to do something. Kindergarteners learn to organize their writing into clear steps, use simple diagrams or pictures, and add labels or captions to support their instructions. This unit encourages children to think like teachers and writers, understanding the power of writing to help others learn new skills.

Unit 4: Persuasive Writing of All Kinds

This unit introduces young writers to persuasive writing by encouraging them to express opinions and try to convince others. Kindergarteners write letters, notes, or lists to share what they like, want, or believe, supporting their ideas with reasons or examples. The unit nurtures the development of a writer's voice and choice, helping children see writing as a tool for influence and self-expression.