



Kindergarten Overview

School Year 2020-2021

Our program is developmentally appropriate and grounded in current research. Young children are active learners who need a broad-based curriculum that includes play, recess, the arts, and a wide range of activities. The program focuses on developing cognitive, social-emotional, self-regulatory, and foundational academic skills.

We believe young children's voices and ideas need to be heard in the classroom in a way that allows them to formulate concepts. The program meets the Virginia Standards of Learning through a relevant, project-based approach. Students are taught how to think, *not* what to think. Children collaborate in small groups with peers in ways that support their social and emotional growth and will spend a lot of their day outside in our natural playscape and new state-of-the-art playgrounds.

Kindergarten classes have one teacher and one assistant
Small class size: 14 students maximum, allowing for individual attention

TRSECC's Reggio-inspired, emergent curriculum philosophy shapes the Kindergarten year. Classroom activities are designed in response to children's interests to promote meaningful learning experiences. In this environment, children are encouraged to be creative, learn through inquiry and exploration, and find individual success and happiness as lifelong learners.

Curriculum Components and Objectives:

- Students' thinking is visible, valued, and actively promoted
- Balanced literacy program, including guided reading and writing instruction
- Introduction to basic mathematical concepts with the use of manipulatives and games
- Foster critical thinking through class discussion, small group problem-solving activities, and reflection
- Introduction to basic technology using a laptop and screen
- Basic coding concepts taught via games
- Music instruction
- Creative art component using a variety of mediums and material
- Basic American History and Virginia History introduced through story and age-appropriate activities
- Expose children to fiction and non-fiction books in our Library
- Support development of self-confidence, nurturing a mindset where children learn and grow from mistakes
- Introduction of basic Jewish concepts
- Encourage empathy and kindness toward others
- Use nature as a teaching tool across the curriculum
- Introduction to basic spoken Spanish
- Celebrate Shabbat on Fridays in class