ABERDEEN HALL
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Aberdeen Hall Preparatory School

PRESCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

Preschool

EARLY LEARNING

Preschool is a time of rapid growth and development for children aged 3-5. It is an opportunity to impact their holistic development. At Aberdeen Hall, we are focused on setting a foundation for their social, emotional, and intellectual success for both school and life. We aim to encourage strength of character, independence, creativity, and a love for learning.

Each day, our caring, inspiring, and enthusiastic Preschool teachers create a learning environment where every student can be supported with individualized attention. Each classroom has a Montessori trained teacher and each teacher offers a different teaching style that compliments the program. Students work with activities in the classroom in the areas of math, sensorial, language arts, culture, and practical life. When you enter our classrooms during Montessori time, you may find it buzzes with a purposeful hum. Each student works with activities that have been demonstrated to them, based on their developmental level, and act as independent learners within a prepared environment. In the afternoon, our students are given an opportunity to cool down and rest their bodies during Recharge Time. During the afternoon portion of our program students take part in specialist classes that promote self-expression, creativity, and imagination.

FUN FACT

With a 44-acre forested campus, we love exploring nature all year long!



Guide to Recharge Time

This recharge schedule accommodates the diverse needs of the children in each and every room! This time gives children the opportunity to unplug from their surroundings and rest or recharge. It is broken down into 3 stages:

01

Cool Down 10-15 minutes

Yoga, Guided Meditation, Story Book, (with or without pictures) & More!

This time is meant as a transition into the body rest time, it is meant to relax children from their engaged, high energy play.

02

Body Rest 10-15 minutes

Quiet rest time. Each child has an opportunity to rest their body on their own mat, relax, reflect, and recharge.

Classical or instrumental music makes a lovely background.

03

Recharge 40-60 minutes

Rest or independent play. Some children may fall asleep if they do they probably need it! Allow them to sleep for the recharge period (unless specified otherwise by parents).

The other children may pick nap baskets and take them to their cots to play independently.



Our Progressive Montessori Program

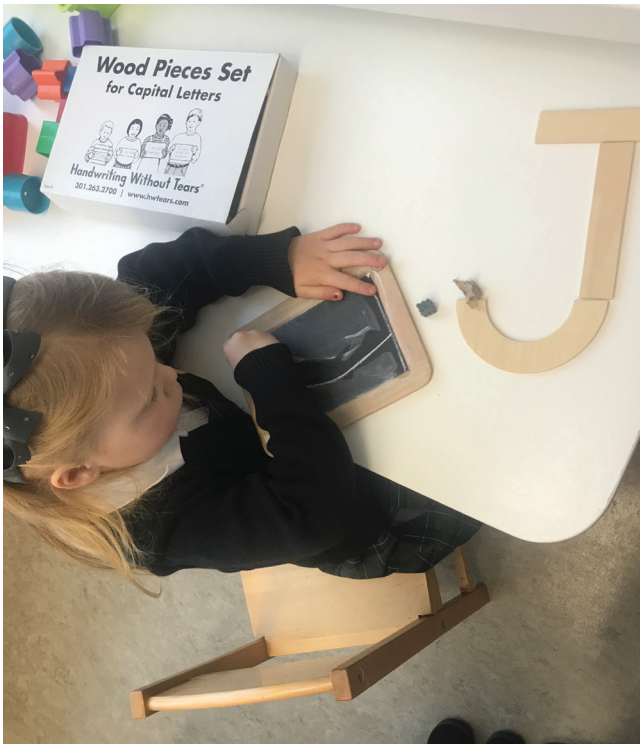
Practical Life

The direct aim of the Practical Life curriculum is to assist children in developing independence in their daily lives and encourage grace and courtesy in their interactions with others. The material in Practical Life falls into one of four categories including preliminary activities, care of self, care of the environment, and social graces. To the adult eye, these activities may seem simple and repetitive, but a child who is learning to pour water or transfer pom poms with tweezers is accomplishing more than meets the eye. A child that is kept challenged in this area will demonstrate a high level of concentration, a sense of order, respect for the material, self-regulation, and increased independence. Indirectly the student is further developing their child's gross and fine motor skills, coordination, and pride in contributing to a classroom.



"NEVER HELP A CHILD WITH A TASK AT WHICH HE FEELS HE CAN SUCCEED."

~ Dr. Maria Montessori



Printing

SKILLS

The students often spend most of their first year in the program establishing preliminary printing skills with Practical Life activities in order to develop their fine motor skills, build strength in their wrists, and finesse their pencil grip. Once they have developed this foundation they utilize a combination of multi-sensory material with the Handwriting Without Tears Program in order to learn the proper formation of letters and numbers. Additionally, Montessori offers some creative and engaging printing extensions for our students to enjoy.

The Preschool curriculum uses hands-on, playful teaching strategies and materials to make learning fun and engaging for children. Through active participation, Pre-K students acquire and retain knowledge easily and effectively.

Phonic Sounds and Reading

The Language Arts reading program is focused on providing a literacy-rich environment that promotes the development of phonetic awareness, comprehension, creativity, enrichment of vocabulary, and a lifelong love of literacy. The Program is enriched with a wide range of activities such as listening games, storytelling, public speaking, singing, reciting poetry, reading and more.

At Aberdeen Hall, we understand the rapid growth in literacy that a Preschool-aged child can go through when exposed to a literacy-rich environment. Our program incorporates experiential learning practices that utilize the phonetic reading approach through a blend of the Jolly Phonics program and Montessori sandpaper letters. The curriculum also offers opportunities for "whole language" learning by word association activities/books and simple sight word games. Children work at their own pace, and at any given time can be at any different level in the curriculum, made possible by the prepared environment.





Math

The children are drawn to the beautiful, concrete Math material. Each piece of material is manipulatable and purposeful in its teaching in order to help our students build a solid foundation in the understanding of abstract Math concepts. All math concepts are taught first in a concrete manner, with tangible materials, and later in an abstract manner, with number symbols. The material encourages the use of positional language, patterning, estimation, and mental math. The program entails a combination of independent and group work. Students take part in collaborative problem-solving exercises with the design cycle and are introduced to early coding through technology.

"I HEAR, I FORGET; I SEE, I REMEMBER; I EXPERIENCE, I UNDERSTAND."

~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Sensorial

It is recognised that young children absorb and understand the world through their senses. The Sensorial portion of our curriculum is designed to develop and refine the senses by providing sensory experiences that encourage classification and discernment of impressions that each sense receives.

Sensorial is often the most popular subject in the classroom. Our younger students can be found working with activities that encourage visual discrimination of size and colour as well as hand-eye coordination. These activities also encourage the development of one's attention span and teach associated language, such as "biggest and smallest" and "widest and thinnest". In the senior, or second year of Preschool, children experiment with many different concepts including:

Tactile Sense
Experimenting with textures (rough and smooth), temperature, and pressure

Auditory Sense
Matching and grading different tones

Stereognostic Sense
Determine the shape of an object by touching or lifting it

Baric Sense
Analyzing weight through prediction and experimentation

Olfactory Sense (sense of smell)
Identifying and matching smells

Gustatory Sense (taste)
Done as a unit - explore sweet, salty, sour, savoury, and bitter

Sense of Sight
Through visual discrimination of size and colour

Culture

Cultural education involves geography, art, music, science, nature, and history. Students learn about celebrations from all around the world and develop an appreciation for our planet's diversity. Through experiences and engaging hands-on learning materials, students learn to classify and understand the world around them. Furthermore, in order to gain a better understanding of self, classes come together to discuss and explore their emotions prompted by characters in our Emotional Literacy program.

Embracing the Great Outdoors in Preschool

Rain or shine, outdoor exploration is at the heart of our Preschool day! We spend as much time outside as possible, giving children daily opportunities to connect with the natural world, breathe in the fresh air, and experience the changing weather firsthand. From digging in our gardens to wandering through our campus trail system, our little learners are constantly discovering, asking questions, and building a lifelong love for nature.



CREATIVITY IS INTELLIGENCE HAVING FUN.

~ Albert Einstein



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