



"Where the love of learning begins..."

Curriculum and Instruction Information

Our programs reflect the belief that children are active learners and they build meaning and understanding through full participation in their learning environments. Our child-centered programs combine high expectations for each child with respect for individual development.

The Learning Environment

Teachers prepare the environment for children to learn through active exploration and interaction with other children and materials. Children are provided hands-on learning activities with materials relevant to their own life experiences. The classrooms are arranged to facilitate flexible grouping and multitasking.

The students are given opportunities to participate in library, music, art, PE classes and STEM activities.

The early childhood environment is created for children to develop:

- responsibility for their own behavior;
- a sense of responsibility for completing assigned tasks;
- oral and written language skills;
- an understanding of mathematical concepts;
- self-confidence and self-worth through secure relationships and independence through meaningful learning experiences.

Curriculum

In WISD, early childhood curriculum and instruction are based on the Texas Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines (state standards).

The teachers in these classrooms implement:

- Frog Street, a comprehensive early childhood program that integrates all domains as required by state standards.
- Handwriting Without Tears (Get Set) curriculum to teach the mechanics of handwriting
- Handwriting Without Tears (Numbers and Math) curriculum to teach mathematics
- Conscious Discipline-an evidenced-based discipline approach program that is built on the premise of developing discipline *within* children rather than applying discipline *to* them. This program integrates classroom management with social-emotional learning.
- Ready Rosie- a video modeling & mobile technology program created to build partnerships between families and educators to promote school readiness. Using peer-to-peer modeling and two-way communication, parents are supported and empowered in their child's learning.

Assessments

The prekindergarten classroom teachers utilize the Circle Progress Monitoring System, a technology-driven tool that enables a teacher to assess a child's progress in a particular skill area. The Head Start teacher administers the GOLD assessment. Both assessments enable educators to focus on and measure the knowledge skills, and behaviors most predictive of school success.

Both tools assess areas such as:

- Social and emotional development
- Language and communication
- Emergent literacy reading
- Emergent literacy writing
- Mathematics

Teachers also use other strategies such as observations, report card testing, checklists, discussions, projects and performance tasks to measure a student's progress.