

## **Young 5's Curriculum**

### **Early Literacy Skills:**

#### **Reading:**

The young fives participate in a variety of Reader's Workshop activities related to balanced literacy. Children will learn age appropriate skills necessary for success in kindergarten from direct and explicit strategy instruction, and teacher modeling. They will experience read alouds, shared reading, Phonics and Word study, and Interactive writing. By the end of the year, many students will be reading and comprehending emergent reader books.

#### **Writing:**

As the children become comfortable with printing their letters they are encouraged to write and sound out words phonetically. Students will develop an understanding that words can be combined to make sentences and these sentences can tell stories. Children will sketch pictures to tell a story and then use the pictures to help them formulate the story. During the second half of the year, students are introduced to the format of writer's workshop in order to insure they are prepared for Kindergarten.

#### **Handwriting:**

We use the D'Nealian writing program which introduces the letter and number forms, size, slant, and spacing used for manuscript and cursive handwriting.

#### **Math:**

Through the use of manipulatives, students will develop number recognition skills (0 through 20) as well as the ability to print numbers 0 through 20. In addition, they will recognize shapes and comprehend one to one correspondents. Students will be introduced to simple fractions, symmetry, graphing and simple addition which will allow them to learn about telling time, monetary value, and simple measurement by the end of the year.

#### **Science and Social Studies:**

Science and Social Studies are integrated throughout thematic units and rotated on a weekly basis. The information is taught through whole group instruction and center play. A few of these units include: Insects, Arachnids, Primary Colors, Color Mixing, The United States and Citizenship, Our Five Senses, Seasons, and Community Helpers.

#### **Chorus:**

All Atlanta Academy students in grades Young 5's-3 participate in the Chorus. The goals in chorus are to develop the unique voice while making music. Other goals of the program are to develop musicianship through singing, sight-reading, theory practice, and listening to, analyzing and critiquing music. The chorus performs multiple times throughout the year including Grandparent's Day, Christmas, and Night of the Arts.

#### **Music**

Children participate in creative movement, imitating and creating rhythmic patterns on instruments as well as through body percussion. Emphasis is put on developing steady beat, developing listening skills and singing on pitch through simple music games and songs.

**Technology**

Throughout the year students are introduced to computer basics while using PCs and Apple computers. Open Court Online Phonics is used to reinforce phonics rules and to help students improve their reading skills while learning basic computer navigation. Kid-Pix and Microsoft Word 2008 are also implemented throughout the year. Students learn how to capitalize letters, type complete sentences, use punctuation, and auto-formatting with Microsoft Word 2008.

**Library**

Students continue to receive library orientation and learn Media Center behavior patterns and procedures. Classes come to the Media Center on a weekly basis. Skills from the previous year are reviewed and expanded upon. Alphabetical order is emphasized as children learn to apply this to the arrangement of Media Center materials. Library terms are expanded upon, reviewing author, illustrator, fiction and nonfiction. Students are introduced to additional terms including Title, Cover, Spine, Title Page. Georgia Book Awards and the Caldecott Award are discussed. Literary forms of Fairy Tales, Biography and Poetry are introduced. Students continue to develop listening skills while being exposed to a variety of literature and authors through read-aloud and other media.<sup>2</sup>

**Spanish**

Students will demonstrate receptive and productive knowledge of themes such as colors, numbers, calendar, weather, emotions, school supplies, family, body parts, foods, and animals. Throughout the year, students will also learn about Hispanic culture and holidays. The language is taught with emphasis on speaking.

**Art**

Students have weekly art instruction where they are introduced to many different mediums and processes. The emphasis is on the creative process, art production and following directions. They will develop and begin to master: caring for materials, drawing skills, painting skills, manipulating clay, cutting, gluing, manipulating paper, printmaking, collage, and sculptures. Students are exposed to the different styles of art and famous artists from different cultures. Students will learn to recognize, appreciate, and create the art of different cultures and famous works of art. There is an emphasis to expand art vocabulary and exposure to famous works of art.

**Physical Education**

Physical Education in Kindergarten focuses on fundamental movement skills. Circuit training is used to introduce skills such as: jump rope, sit-ups, catching & throwing, dribbling, and kicking. Good sportsmanship and teamwork are very important. Students participate in team sports including: soccer, parachute, and modified floor hockey.