

Circle Play & Learn Academy

Grade 3 Curriculum

The curriculum listed here is a sampling of possible topics; using their professional judgment, teachers will choose the topics and formulate lesson plans specifically for the children in the class. Also, parent requests are gladly honored.

Academic Skills

- Memorization, recall
 - Recitation of poetry and stories
- Planning ahead, order of operations
- Listening, following directions
- Following rules
- Making something new
- Short-term focus on paper work

Social Studies

- World Cultures
 - 2018-19 included stories and songs from Germany, Ireland, Australia, Africa, Middle East, Russia
- Holidays and Festivals
 - Michaelmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Mardi Gras, Easter, May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Saints' Days
- Introduction to foreign languages – Spanish, French

Mathematics

- Counting to 1,000
 - Counting by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s, and 100s
- Geometry—recognizing and naming shapes, relating and fitting shapes together, straight/curved
 - Drawing different lines (straight, curved, wavy, zig-zag, etc.)
 - Drawing shapes
- Weight, size, volume, and quantity comparisons and manipulations
 - Measurements of time, temperature, weight, volume, length
- Simple, short patterns
- Writing Arabic and Roman numerals
- Concepts of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing
 - Writing mathematical problems on paper
- Currency

Language Arts

- Early Literacy and Literacy skills
 - Holding books correctly, deciphering pictures in books

- Recognizing symbols
- Alphabet, Phonics, and Writing
 - Capital letters
 - Letter sounds
 - Eurythmy for each sound
 - Write own name
 - Consonant blends, digraphs, and trigraphs
 - Lower-case letters
 - Write loved ones' names
 - Reading
 - Grammar
 - Cursive handwriting
 - Sentences and Paragraphs
- Storytelling and retelling by both teacher and student
 - Theatrical and dramatic arts
 - Inventing stories and poetry
- Comprehension
 - Dialogue and discussion
 - Imagining what comes next
 - Relating stories to their own lives and experiences
 - Understanding point of view of various characters
- Rhyming, alliteration, rhythm, syllables, repetition, rhythm, meter
- Conversation and dialogue
- Stories of the Old Testament and other religions

Science

- Meteorology
 - Weather
 - Seasons
- Geology (qualities of stones)
- Food
 - Agriculture
 - Cooking
- Categorizing
 - Sorting, comparing/contrasting
 - Kingdoms (Plant, Animal, etc.)
 - Recognizing and naming species
- Biology
 - Diet and behavior of certain animal species
 - Metamorphosis (frogs, butterflies)
- Physics
 - Gaseous, solid, and liquid states of water
 - Density – floating/sinking
- Astronomy
 - Moon, sun, stars, planets, constellations

- Spaceships/astronauts
- Archaeology
 - Dinosaurs
 - Digging
 - Deciphering clues
- Construction (house building)
- Textiles (fibers and clothing)

Community

- Cooperative game playing
- Imaginative free play with friends
- Relationships: self, parent/child, stranger, inter-generational, friends, relatives, non-human, spirit
- Emotions
- Empathy, perspective (of others)
- Sharing, giving, receiving, generosity, gratitude
- Responsibility, household chores
- Manners, respect
- Giving instructions and making requests politely, expressing displeasure respectfully
- Nobility (leading and setting example to younger students, protecting those weaker than self)

Self

- Knowing own likes, dislikes, needs
 - Expressing self clearly and politely
- Courage
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Gratitude
- Joy, humor
- Love
- Trust/distrust
- Self-discipline

Health/Physical Education

- Sit/stand, Bend/straight, Push/pull, gentle/firm, throw/catch, balance/tumble, roll/expand, low/high, fast/slow, big/small
- Directions forward, backward, sideways, far, close
- Prepositions: in front, above, inside, outside, behind, below, beside, on, under
- Body parts
- Outdoor time for health of lungs, eyes, and large motor development, as well as increased impetus for creativity and confidence
- Character play
- Gross motor skills: jumping, skipping, stretching, bending, kicking, reaching, etc.
- Competitive sports

Humanities—Music, Art, Dance, Beauty

- Songs, poems, dance, fingerplays
- Instruments: Vocal, percussion, natural
- Skills of dexterity: painting, coloring, drawing, chalking, cutting, gluing, stamping, stickering, sewing, embroider, modeling, knitting, crocheting
- Qualities of music: fast/slow, repetitive
- Colors: Light/dark, primary colors, color blends, rainbow/colorwheel
- Artistic appreciation, beauty, emotional expression/communication
- Finest quality art supplies for a beautiful feeling during creation and a high quality resulting product—expensive paintbrushes, watercolor paints, beeswax crayons, special paper, real clay
- Finest quality toys—playsilks of real silk, wooden toys, handcrafted toys, all-natural, soft to the touch, attractive
- Spinning and weaving
- Music
 - Recorder, singing in rounds

Discipline

For the most part, Circle Play & Learn teachers elicit positive behaviors from children because they create a comfortable and predictable daily rhythm, which makes the children comfortable. Additionally, they instruct through song and teach through example, modeling the behaviors they desire rather than lecturing about them. This is very successful. However, when a little extra guidance is needed, Circle Play methods veer slightly from traditional Waldorf education. We follow the recommendations put forth in No Drama Discipline by Daniel Siegel. Even as Circle Play teachers hold high standards and expectations of good behavior, they are very gentle in their guidance. The children respond very well and happily to this.