Ordering

Contact Information: Richard Peterson, Vice President of Education
Address: 3415 Box Hill Corporate Center Drive, Abingdon, MD 21009
Phone: 410-515-0788
Fax: 410-569-6958
Email: rpeterson@kiddieacademy.com
Website: http://kiddieacademy221.reachlocal.net/

Summary

Kiddie Academy is proud to have a proprietary curriculum developed by educators. The Kiddie Academy curriculum consists of over 7,000 pages of developmentally appropriate activities designed to meet the needs of all of the children in our care. Within the curriculum guides, teachers find lesson plans, assessment tools, resources and templates for parent communication. The Kiddie Academy Education and Operations departments support the use of the curriculum through on-site visits, a telephone support line, intranet, in-person and web-based training and email contacts. Additionally, each year, the Education Department undertakes a systematic review of the curriculum to update materials, to incorporate feedback from teachers, and to address the changing trends in early education research and practice.

The implementation of developmentally appropriate practices represents the results of years of research conducted by experts in the field of early childhood education. This research looked at best practices and emerging and existing theories to create an approach to educating young children. This approach recognizes that not all children develop at the same rate, and that all children are able to learn if provided with appropriate support and experiences. The purpose of defining a developmentally appropriate approach is to help educators make decisions that take into account the age and developmental level of their students, and to focus on short and long-term goals.

Kiddie Academy maintains a full time Education Department. Our proprietary curriculum is regularly updated and revised. The Kiddie Academy Technical Line (KAT) offers toll-free phone support to academy staff for questions related to curriculum planning and implementation. Kiddie Academy offers extensive training to franchisees, directors and teachers. In addition, proprietary training materials created by the Education Department can be easily used by Franchise Business Consultants, Franchisees or directors to train on-site staff members. A broad range of training materials are made available to the system on our intranet - KARES.

The Kiddie Academy curriculum is based on a central principle of early learning: children learn through direct experiences by using their own creativity in an environment that encourages curiosity and exploration, while teachers act as facilitators to guide and support play-based learning. The Kiddie Academy curriculum encourages children to question, build, create, move, and collaborate; and it supplies teachers with the tools to communicate information in a manner appropriate for various age groups. The curriculum is supported by the
interior design and layout of each academy and by the supplies and equipment available in each classroom.

The Kiddie Academy curriculum includes 10 months of activities and instruction during the traditional school-year months and a separate summer camp program for toddlers through school-age children. Separate curriculum materials for infants and toddlers are intended to meet the specific needs of those age groups. The availability of year-round learning provides a unique opportunity for consistent, safe and engaging learning experiences that eliminate the scheduling obstacles of the traditional school and summer camp routine. During the school year, monthly themes are established and divided into weekly and daily projects. As children advance through Kiddie Academy’s curriculum, the specific skills learned at each age build upon the foundation established in the previous year or years. In addition to the traditional areas of language arts and literacy, mathematics, science and social studies, the Kiddie Academy curriculum also provides learning experiences and thematic activities in creative and dramatic arts, physical fitness and health, character education and technology.

Each academy provides children ages 6 weeks to 12 years with a range of opportunities to experience a unique, educationally based child care environment. Children are provided with a variety of developmentally appropriate experiences designed to build a foundation for lifelong learning, while at the same time, recognizing that childhood is a time of exploration, discovery and growth. While all children learn and grow differently, the Kiddie Academy curriculum focuses on specific areas of developmental growth that are appropriate for all of the children in our care. By addressing each child’s needs in each developmental area, all of the children receive individualized practice and instruction on the skills they need to be healthy, happy learners.

**Infant Curriculum: New Beginnings**

Kiddie Academy’s infant curriculum represents the latest in creating a developmentally appropriate curriculum for the very youngest children in our care. The infant curriculum is based on a single concept: every experience is part of the infant’s curriculum. This means that each interaction, each touch, each sound and each experience helps infants grow and learn. The unique design of the Kiddie Academy infant curriculum supports this concept, and provides teachers with the information they need to create a stimulating and nurturing learning environment, while addressing the individual developmental needs of each infant.

Infants are constantly gathering information about their surroundings. The goal of *New Beginnings* is to guide teachers to plan learning experiences around an infant’s natural curiosity. *New Beginnings* is designed to meet the developmental needs of individual infants. Teachers will find learning experiences and activities that can be adapted in many different ways. Teachers develop an individual plan for each child based on an assessment of the child’s needs and developmental progress. This design ensures that infants are exposed to a wide array of materials.

*New Beginnings* includes important features designed to assist teachers in developing the most appropriate learning experiences for every infant. The curriculum is divided into two sections: 6 weeks–6 months, and 7 months–12 months. Each section includes activities designed to stimulate development in the following development areas:

- Gross Motor Development
- Fine Motor Development
- Social Development
- Emotional Development
- Communication Development
- Cognitive Development
In addition to activities for each area of development, the curriculum also includes a list of developmental criteria. These criteria are based on the monthly developmental checklists. Teachers use the developmental criteria to choose the particular activities that are coded to address that developmental area. For each infant, teachers will develop individual lesson plans, and will record those plans on a weekly or biweekly basis. This individualized planning allows teachers to choose activities and programs that meet each infant’s needs.

**Toddler Curriculum: Discovering Me**

*Discovering Me* reflects the latest research in brain development, as well as current trends in the education of toddlers. The goal was to create a responsive curriculum that could be used by all teachers to meet the needs of the individual toddlers in their care. This curriculum is based on the philosophy that, like infants, everything a toddler experiences is part of his or her curriculum. This means that every sound that occurs in the environment can be used as a teaching tool. Every picture on the wall or mobile hanging from the ceiling provides an opportunity for learning to occur. Every time a child is fed, social and emotional connections are made. Every time a child’s cries are soothed, cause and effect relationships are developed. All of these experiences are part of toddlers’ Life Essentials.

Toddlers are motivated to learn as an innate survival skill. They are constantly gathering information about their surroundings. The goal of *Discovering Me* is to guide teachers through capitalizing on this natural curiosity. The curriculum provides activities that can be implemented throughout the toddler’s daily routine. The curriculum leads teachers to a better understanding of the uniqueness of each child in their care. The uniqueness of this stage of development allows early childhood educators to adopt a flexible plan for each child. These plans are responsive to individual toddlers and are based on each child’s temperament, interests, daily routine and current level of development.

*Discovering Me* is designed to meet the developmental needs of individual toddlers by responding to their needs and interests. The curriculum activities are described in a general manner, allowing teachers to use many different types of materials. For example, the same texture exploration activity could be completed each day for a year and always be different, depending on the texture of the objects provided.

Repeating activities and using different materials will ensure that toddlers are exposed to a wide array of materials, rather than only items pertaining to predetermined themes. Teachers have the freedom to structure each year, month, week and day in response to the needs of the toddlers in their care. No two years, months or weeks will be the same, thus preventing burnout and stagnation. The curriculum provides the activities; teachers choose materials to use from day to day, depending on the interests of the toddlers in their care.

*Discovering Me* includes important features designed to assist teachers in developing the most appropriate learning experiences for every toddler. Each section includes activities designed to stimulate development in the following development areas:

- Gross Motor Development
- Fine Motor Development
- Social Development
- Emotional Development
- Communication Development
- Cognitive Development

In addition to activities for each area of development, the curriculum also includes a list of developmental criteria. These criteria are based on the monthly developmental checklists. Teachers use the developmental criteria to choose the particular activities that are coded to address that developmental area. For each toddler,
teachers will develop individual lesson plans, and will record those plans on a weekly or biweekly basis.

**Twos Curriculum: Exploring My World**

*Exploring My World* is designed to take advantage of two-year-olds’ natural curiosity. In *Exploring My World*, children explore all areas of learning in a safe, secure environment. The children practice identifying simple cause and effect relationships, matching objects and solving problems. They also begin to learn how to recognize patterns and sequences and to put things in order. Two-year-olds are just beginning to establish their independence, which the curriculum supports through individualized attention and activities that meet each child’s needs.

The *Exploring My World* curriculum supports healthy growth in the following development areas:
- Gross Motor Development
- Fine Motor Development
- Social Development
- Emotional Development
- Communication Development
- Cognitive Development

The *Exploring My World* program enhances learning for children as they expand their understanding of themselves in relation to their world. Cognitive concepts develop and grow as a result of each child’s repeated exposure to, and exploration of, a variety of stimulating materials and activities. Through play, each child gains an understanding of both the cultural world in which he lives, and the knowledge of his identity in this world. Two-year-olds are given the opportunity and freedom to explore, examine, and investigate materials as they broaden their language through interaction with their caregivers and peers.

**Threes Curriculum: I Can Do It**

*I Can Do It* is designed to build upon three-year-olds’ increasing interest and interaction with the world around them. *I Can Do It* is a standards-based curriculum where children are challenged to explore, create and cooperate through activating background knowledge and learning new information. The children build upon what they already know and make choices about new and different learning experiences. Three-year-olds are continuing to assert their independence, which the curriculum supports through individualized attention and activities that meet each child’s needs.

*I Can Do It* supports healthy growth in the following development areas:
- Gross Motor Development
- Fine Motor Development
- Social Development
- Emotional Development
- Communication Development
- Cognitive Development

*I Can Do It* is designed to help each three-year-old reach his potential through the exploration of fun, safe learning experiences. Three-year-olds will continue to expand their social, emotional, cognitive, and communication skills through making choices among a wide variety of activities. This teacher-facilitated decision making helps children think independently and prepares them to make more informed educational choices.

**Fours Curriculum: Ready, Set, Go**

*Ready, Set, Go* is a standards-based curriculum focused on getting the students acquainted with the classroom,
teachers and other children; learning about classroom rules; and building self-awareness and self-concept. With this background knowledge firmly in place, teachers work with students to explore thematic units through developmentally appropriate activities.

*Ready, Set, Go* supports healthy growth in the following development areas:
- Language Arts and Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social and Emotional Development
- Gross and Fine Motor Development
- Character Education

*Ready, Set, Go* is designed to prepare children for the next step in their education. The curriculum is focused on developmental growth as well as school readiness in specific content areas. The standards-based approach ensures that all areas are addressed and teachers can focus on the development of the whole child.

**Fives Curriculum: On My Way**

*On My Way* is a standards-based program that supports five-year-olds as they approach critical stages of pre-reading skill development. The *On My Way* curriculum focuses not only on developmentally appropriate academic standards, but also addresses the social and emotional development of the whole child. Additionally, elements of the *On My Way* Curriculum were created to align with the Common Core State Standards Initiative for Mathematics and English Language Arts. *On My Way* themes were carefully chosen to provide a solid foundation in Literature, Life and Earth Sciences, Geography, History, and Creative Arts. Activities provide opportunities for individualized learning experiences and emphasize quality literature as a basis for learning.

*On My Way* supports skill development in the following areas:
- Language Arts and Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social and Emotional Development
- Gross and Fine Motor Development
- Character Education

The *On My Way* program provides equity in educational opportunities for each child. This is achieved by offering a balance of approaches to learning, respecting diversity, and encouraging best educational practices. This curriculum also reinforces the importance of interaction between the children and the environment, and supports and extends the children’s progress through various stages of development.

**Character Education**

The Kiddie Academy Character Education curriculum is part of the program for every child in the academy. As part of our Life Essentials philosophy, we believe children should be regularly exposed to character education. Teachers are encouraged to build upon themes of ethical responsibility, cultural awareness, empathy and positive social relationships on a daily basis. The Character Education portion of the Kiddie Academy curriculum has been designed to interact with and support the ideas and skills the children are already learning.