

Introduction

We are pleased to provide this overview of the kindergarten academic program at Lexis Prep. Our carefully developed curriculum provides Lexis Prep students with a strong college-prep education in the setting of personalized instruction.

The following guide gives an overall picture of what a Lexis Prep student will learn in kindergarten. The individual learner and classroom needs will determine how the guide is implemented in the classroom.

English Language Arts/Reading

Students at Lexis Prep benefit from an English Language Arts and Reading curriculum that teaches students not just how to read and write, but also the meaning and purpose of what they are learning. The Lexis Prep curriculum utilizes the *Imagine It!* program which is correlated to the national standards put forth by the National Reading Panel. This curriculum includes the areas of: Foundational Skills; Literature; Informational Text; Language; Speaking and Listening; and Writing. The standards offer a focus for instructional practices and strategies and help ensure students gain adequate exposure to a range of learning opportunities.



The *Imagine It!* English Language Arts and Reading program thoroughly addresses the five key areas of reading: phonemic awareness; systematic, explicit phonics; fluency; vocabulary; and comprehension. The curriculum lays the foundation of reading skills, provides practice increasing confidence, assesses progress, provides additional help and challenges, guides through inquiry, questioning, investigating and exploring, teaches writing strategies, offers a variety of genres, and bolsters instruction with the use of technology resources.

Reading Standards for Foundational Skills

Print Concepts

- Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print

Phonological Awareness

- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and phonemes

Phonics and Word Recognition

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words

Fluency

- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension





Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- Ask and answer questions about details and events in a text
- Retell familiar stories
- Identify characters, settings, and key events in a story

Craft and Structure

- Ask questions about unknown words in a text
- Recognize common types of texts
- Name the author and the illustrator of a text and define the role of each

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Relate pictures and illustrations to the overall story in which they appear
- Compare and contrast the adventures of characters in familiar stories

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read emergent-reader literature texts with purpose and understanding

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

- Ask and answer questions about information and events in a text
- Identify the main topic and main ideas of a text
- Describe the connection between two events or ideas in a text

Craft and Structure

- Ask questions about unknown words in a text
- Locate basic information in a text
- Name the author and illustrator of a text and define the role of each

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Relate pictures or illustrations to the overall text in which they appear
- Recognize cause-and-effect relationships in a text
- Recognize basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read emergent-reader informational texts with purpose and understanding

Language Standards

Conventions in Writing and Speaking

- Observe conventions of grammar and usage
- Observe conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- Determine word meanings
- Understand word relationships
- Use newly learned words acquired through conversations, reading, and writing

Speaking and Listening Standards

Comprehension and Collaboration

- Participate in conversations with peers and adults about topics and texts being studied in class
- Understand information presented orally or through media by asking about key details
- Ask questions to get information, seek help, or clarify something that is not understood

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and provide additional detail

Writing Standards

Text Types and Purposes

- Use drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinions of names and topics of books
- Use drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts about writing
- Use drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events

Production and Distribution of Writing

- Add details to strengthen writing as needed through revision

Mathematics

The goal of the Lexis Prep K-4 mathematics program is for our students to develop the ability to think and reason mathematically and use mathematics to solve problems in authentic contexts. The expectation is that they will achieve mathematical proficiency through the mastery of mathematic skills, concepts, and processes. This goal is met through the opportunity to develop, practice and review concepts over time. Lexis Prep students move from the concrete to the pictorial to the abstract through a deliberate sequence of instruction. Our students' regular exposure to critical thinking and problem solving prepares them for real world applications.



The Lexis Prep mathematics curriculum is aligned with both the National Council for Teaching Mathematics (NCTM) Standards and Benchmarks as well as Saxon Math. The standards outlined below show the general progression of topics over the course of the school year. Parents can be confident their child will receive thorough mathematics instruction.

Lexis Prep Math Standards Correlated with NCTM Standards and Saxon Math

Number and Operations

- Represent, compare, and order whole numbers and join and separate sets
- Use numbers, including written numerals, to represent quantities and to solve quantitative problems
- Choose, combine, and apply effective strategies for answering quantitative questions

Geometry

- Describe shapes and space
- Interpret the physical world with geometric ideas and describe it with corresponding vocabulary
- Identify, name, and describe a variety of shapes presented in a variety of ways

Measurement

- Order objects by measurable attributes
- Use measurable attributes, such as length or weight, to solve problems by comparing and ordering objects
- Compare the lengths of two objects both directly and indirectly with a third object

Data Analysis

- Sort objects and use one or more attributes to solve problems
- Collect data and use counting
- Re-sort objects by using new attributes

Geometry

- Integrate understandings of geometry, measurement, and number lines

Algebra

- Identify, duplicate, and extend simple number, sequential and growing patterns as rules relationships

Science

The Lexis Prep science program provides students with opportunities to think and act like scientists. Lexis Prep students acquire scientific knowledge, practice science process skills, and apply science concepts through reading and observing, as well as by conducting investigations that have real-world applications.

Kindergarten science is organized into three disciplines: life science, physical science, and science and technology. All science outcomes are aligned to the National Science Education (NSE) Standards.

Lexis Prep utilizes Delta Education which provides a kit-based curriculum and instructional resources that correlate with state standards. Delta Education provides the expertise to ensure the best combination of materials are selected for each grade level in order to align the Lexis Prep curriculum with the science concepts, inquiry nature, and developmental appropriateness reflected in the state standards.



Lexis Prep Science Standards Correlated with NSE and Delta Education

Unit 1: Observing an Aquarium

In **Observing an Aquarium**, students build and maintain aquariums that become, over several weeks, diverse underwater ecosystems. Students can observe food chains, how populations change, and how life cycles unfold. One by one, organisms are introduced into fresh water habitats: two types of aquatic plants, tropical fish, pond snails, algae, and tiny crustaceans called daphnia. Students examine each one to discover how it is suited to life under water. By the time they take an end-of-unit field trip to a local pond, students are experienced observers who will recognize meaningful similarities and differences between their classroom aquariums and the natural environment.

In the Delta Science Reader *Observing an Aquarium*, students read about the plants and animals that live in an aquarium. They learn about the life cycle of fish as well as the different body parts that make fish well adapted to living in water. Students also learn about the job of an aquarium scientist. Finally, students observe different types of water habitats.

Unit 2: Properties

Students explore **Properties** with thirteen hands-on activities and the Delta Science Reader. To make sense of the world, a child must develop the capacity to classify and sort. Because students love to explore things with their hands, free play with kit contents is the first step in every session. Students use their hands and eyes to classify and sort by color, size, shape, and texture. They work with balances and other equipment to compare and contrast objects by weight, buoyancy, magnetic attraction, and material composition. As they practice distinguishing and grouping objects, they also build two vital vocabulary skills: describing and explaining.

In the Delta Science Reader *Properties*, students are introduced to the concept of matter and some of the properties that distinguish one object from another. Students read about the properties of solids, liquids, and gases. They observe that some objects sink while others float and that some objects are magnetic while others are not. The book describes how a geologist uses properties in her work. Students also read about how water can change.

Unit 3: Sunshine and Shadows

Students explore shadows from every possible angle in **Sunshine and Shadows**. They begin with a simple definition of shadow and end with a full-fledged original performance in a shadow theater. Once students identify what is needed to make a shadow (a light source, a solid object, and a surface), they are off and running. In both indoor and outdoor activities, students make predictions about how shadows change position, size, and length, and even become multiples or disappear. From their experiments they draw conclusions about the variables (such as the sun's movement) that affect shadow shapes. They create silhouettes to explore shadow properties. And they build sundials to put shadows to work telling time.



In the Delta Science Reader *Sunshine and Shadows*, students read about the world of light and shadows. They discover how shadows are formed and why shadows change size and shape. They learn about different sources of light and identify kinds of objects that block light to make a shadow. They also read about the job of a meteorologist, a scientist who studies and forecasts weather, sunny and otherwise. Finally, students learn how sundials use sunlight and shadows to tell the time.

Social Studies



Lexis Prep students enjoy *Me and My World*, the TCI *Social Studies Alive!* curriculum for kindergarten. *Social Studies Alive!* consists of a series of instructional practices that allow students of all abilities to master key social studies concepts. The *Social Studies Alive!* approach is characterized by eight features: theory and research based active instruction, standards based content, preview assignments, multiple intelligences teaching, considerate text, graphically organized reading notes, processing assignment, and assessments to inform instruction.

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has organized grade level content into Ten Thematic Units of Instruction that form the framework of the social studies standards. All ten themes are found at each grade level of *Social Studies Alive!* with specific themes enhanced at different grade levels. The focal themes in kindergarten are bolded below.

- Culture
- People, places, and environments
- **Individuals, groups and institutions**
- **Production, distribution, and consumption**
- Global connections
- Time, continuity, and change
- **Individual development and identity**
- Power, authority, and governance
- Science, technology and society
- **Civic ideals and practices**

The Lexis Prep social studies curriculum is content and benchmark aligned with the NCSS thematic units. Where objectives overlap with other grade levels, the objectives are met using different age-appropriate content and activities at each grade level.

Lexis Prep Social Studies Standards Correlated with NCSS and *Social Studies Alive!*

Unit: My School and Family

- Understand responsibilities as classmates including exploring ways to get along in school
- Discover the importance of learning from and accepting one another
- Understand the reasons for having rules and the consequences of not following them
- Compare the typical duties of a teacher, principal, secretary, and custodian and how each contributes to the school community
- Discuss student contributions at school such as helping others, respecting school property, being positive, and solving problems
- Learn what maps are and how to use them including reading a classroom map, key, and a compass rose
- Compare schools of long ago to schools of today
- Identify and categorize different groups to which students may belong such as school, family, and community
- Discuss how all families are special in different ways such as family members, types of homes, and family activities
- Differentiate between the needs and wants of families
- Discuss how family members care for each other through helping, sharing and spending time together
- Learn about ways families change over time
- Explore personal family traditions and learn about the traditions of others
- Explore personal responsibilities as good neighbors in a neighborhood

National Standards for Visual Arts

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for K-4 visual arts education include:



- Understand and apply media, techniques and processes
- Use knowledge of structure and functions
- Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
- Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines

National Standards for Music Education

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for K-4 music education include:



- Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines
- Read and notate music
- Listen to, analyze and describe music
- Evaluate music and music performances
- Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understand music in relation to history and culture

National Standards of Physical Education

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) defines five major focus areas specifying what a physically educated person is capable of performing. These focus areas are:

- Learn skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities
- Be physically fit
- Participate regularly in physical activity
- Know the implications of and the benefits from involvement in physical activities
- Value physical activity and its contribution to a healthful lifestyle



The Difference Maker: Lexis Accent

Customizing is the Key to Success for Each Child

The hallmark of a Lexis Prep education is our personalized approach called Lexis Accent. We know some students need an extra emphasis in their academic program and Lexis Accent is our tool to do that. This customization may include special one-on-one and small group sessions during the school day. These specialized sessions give the Lexis Prep staff the opportunity to focus on the particular learning needs of every child.



Writing - Students receive extra support in the writing process from draft to final copy, including areas such as voice, style, conventions, and research skills.

Reading - A focused time spent on phonemic awareness, systematic phonics instruction, decoding, fluency, and comprehension.

Math - Students use manipulatives while receiving extra instruction in order to ensure mastery of all mathematics concepts.

Social Skills - Students learn practical strategies for developing appropriate friendships, understanding social nuances, and being comfortable in social situations.

As part of the enrollment process, your child will be evaluated to determine if he would benefit from personalized time in any of these areas. If so, it will be included as part of his education plan. There is no additional charge for these classes as we have found the Lexis Accent program is key to ensuring success in a college prep program.

Your child may also work with an Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist, or Counselor at Lexis Prep. These are provided by a third party and there is an extra charge for these services.

Executive Function: Prepare for a Lifetime of Success

The ability to self-regulate is essential for success in life. At Lexis Prep, we call this executive function, a well-known concept that entails many different skills and abilities. Children with ADD or ADHD frequently struggle in this area so we put special emphasis on developing this skill in all our students.

According to Joyce Cooper-Kahn and Laurie Dietzel (*Late, Lost and Unprepared*), executive function can be defined as “a set of processes that all have to do with managing oneself and one’s resources in order to achieve a goal. It is an umbrella term for the neurologically-based skills involving mental control and self-regulation.” Skills and abilities that make up executive function include self-monitoring, planning, organization, emotional control, initiation, shifting, and working memory.

All Lexis Prep students spend time each day learning and practicing these critical executive function skills. Executive function is built into our curriculum and is also explicitly taught with the goal of helping every student effectively develop and utilize these important life skills.

