



A GUIDE TO YOUR **CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY**



CHAMPIONS

**Knowledge
Beginnings®**

The Knowledge Universe®
Family of Brands

WELCOME

Where to send your child for his or her early education is one of the biggest decisions a parent makes. We know it's important to find child care you can trust and a program that meets your expectations. You have come to the right place! Nationwide, families entrust us with their infants, toddlers, preschoolers, prekindergartners, and school-age children, and we make it our passion to nurture a sense of discovery, togetherness, joy, and wonder in every child. School-readiness studies have shown that a higher percentage of children learning from our programs tested ready for kindergarten compared to other children, and they ranked as top performers in the following areas: language/literacy, mathematical thinking, and scientific thinking.

This booklet will guide you as you continue to make great care and education choices for your child. Together, we will partner with you to nurture your child's love of learning.



More than a child care center. A place where children explore, discover, and learn.

At our centers we respect children as individuals. Age-appropriate programs and a staff of dedicated teachers ensure that children get the positive learning experiences they need to grow up happy and confident.

Experience matters when it comes to child care, and after spending over 40 years caring for children, we have become the nation's leading early childhood education and care provider. We have more than 1,000 accredited centers with exceptional proprietary curriculum and enrichment programs, all developed by education experts.

INSPIRE

Extensive professional development to ensure highly qualified and well-trained teachers

Whether our teachers are working with children or interacting with families, communication is a huge part of their mission. They are passionate about what they do, and they're excited to share that enthusiasm with you and your child. Our teachers are highly qualified and experienced educators. Our nationwide Professional Development Days help teachers and staff stay current on the latest research, trends, and thinking when it comes to what's best for children at all stages of development.

Caring and dedicated staff connect you to your child's day

Children change every day. With this in mind, our teachers and staff provide daily updates on your child's development. Take comfort in the knowledge that each afternoon at pickup time we will share with you the fun learning experiences your child has been enjoying. You'll get updates on activities your child participated in, including any small steps or milestones. We honor your role as a parent, and we learn from you—the first and most important teacher in your child's life.

SOME EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF COMMUNICATION YOU CAN EXPECT:

- Ongoing dialogue with teachers and staff at drop-off and pickup
- Regular parent-teacher conferences
- Center-specific newsletters, highlighting upcoming activities and events
- Family communication boards
- Written communication specific to your needs, including regular assessment
- Comprehensive curriculum plans so you know what your child is learning



MARY ANNTIPIE-BANE
Belford, NJ
2014 Educator Award Winner

ACCREDITATION

Leading the nation in accreditation

Nationwide, all our centers are working toward earning accreditation. We already have more accredited centers than any other early childhood education provider in the country. Accreditation is a stamp of excellence awarded by an independent, third-party accrediting agency. That means we are given the stamp of excellence after all aspects of our centers have been evaluated. Staff qualifications, curriculum, nutrition, safety practices, and relationship building with families and the community are just some of the center aspects that are evaluated during the accreditation process. We must—and do!—renew our accreditation status every few years. Our goal as a leading child care provider is 100% accreditation.



THE RESULTS SAY IT ALL!

Our curriculum sets children ahead of others where it matters, when it matters


We'll gladly talk all day about how our early childhood programs help young minds blossom. But we can also back it up with research data.

Recent studies in Maryland and Florida showed that children enrolled in our programs tested ready for kindergarten at a higher rate than their peers.*

*Sources:

Maryland Model for School Readiness research-based assessment and instructional system. Fall 2011.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Study. April 2012-13.



**WE BELIEVE
THERE IS NO JOB
MORE IMPORTANT THAN
EDUCATING
CHILDREN**

YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY

From the moment children are born, they begin their learning journey. As infants make important connections with the world around them, they grow eager to explore and experience each new discovery that unfolds.

When setting out for a destination, it's good to have a map—one that will help guide you to the goal you're trying to reach. Our Early Foundations® programs provide the map for your child's education, ensuring that he or she is on the right path.

As your child grows, develops, and experiences the wonder of learning, we walk alongside you on the journey, helping lead the way toward kindergarten and beyond.

Our Early Foundations programs provide children with rich educational activities and experiences in whole- and small-group settings and are tailored to each child's level of development and learning style. Intentionally designed to meet specific learning goals, or *standards*, our daily curriculum activities cover six developmental areas of focus, called *domains*. The six domains are: Language and Literacy Development; Executive Function; Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development and Wellness; Cognitive Development; and Creative Expression.

These research-based standards, coupled with our six developmental domains, are the bricks on the path of your child's learning journey.

- **Language and Literacy Development**
Involves children's abilities to convey their ideas, thoughts, and feelings through speaking and writing, and their ability to demonstrate early reading skills.
- **Executive Function**
Focuses on the development of skills necessary for learning, such as self-regulation, attention, and persistence.
- **Social and Emotional Development**
Supports your child's ability to express and regulate feelings and develop relations with others.
- **Physical Development and Wellness**
Gives your child opportunities to build large- and small-muscle skills, strength, stamina, and knowledge needed to live a healthy lifestyle.
- **Cognitive Development**
Supports the mental processes needed to think, make sense of the world, and understand knowledge across different subjects, including mathematics, science, and social studies.
- **Creative Expression**
Helps your child creatively explore the arts, movement, drama, and music.

DREAM

Smiles from morning to night

We have designed a nurturing, creative, wondrous world for infants, one that helps foster the daily development of their minds and bodies. When your infant first starts his or her learning journey with us, we work with you to make that transition a smooth, happy time, with smiles all around. To ensure a great start for infants, we are committed to creating a strong bond with your child in a safe, fun “home-away-from-home” setting that feels like family.

CURRICULUM FEATURES:

- Six activities per month that are aligned to current early learning standards covering 6 developmental areas of focus
- Two Wet and Messy sensory activities per theme that help infants understand their world
- Focused Community Time that helps create community in the infant classroom and support social and emotional development
- Monthly Family Notes with program highlights



Inside your infant's day

Your infant will learn a wide array of things during the day with us, engaging in activities such as using the five senses to explore the world all around him or her, copying the simple actions of others, experimenting with toy instruments, exploring different textures, discovering colors, developing memory skills, learning a variety of words and sounds, and interacting with other children.

In the area of...

Your infant will:

| | |
|--|--|
| Language and Literacy Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make early attempts at speaking including cooing, babbling, and forming first words. • learn to understand a variety of words by listening, observing, and engaging with adults. • use sounds and gestures to express needs, wants, and interests. • listen to books read aloud. |
| Executive Function | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work on early memory skills by looking for objects that are hidden, like a toy beneath a blanket. • focus attention for short periods of time. • use different approaches to solve simple problems, such as making sounds and pointing. • control impulses some of the time, like waiting for a turn to select a toy from a basket. |
| Social and Emotional Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • form an attachment to familiar adults and begin to show signs of happiness when interacting with them. • begin to interact with other children, smiling and vocalizing when playing. • express some emotions through sounds, facial expressions, and movements. • build a sense of self by recognizing himself or herself in a mirror. |
| Physical Development and Wellness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work on physical milestones such as rolling over, crawling, and early walking skills. • coordinate hand movements to begin reaching for, grasping, and exploring objects. • begin to cooperate with care routines, such as getting dressed and washing hands. • show an interest in eating and trying new foods. |
| Cognitive Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • begin to distinguish between familiar and unfamiliar objects, people, and places. • use the five senses to explore and observe. • begin to copy the simple actions of others. • perform actions to gain a response. |
| Creative Expression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • begin to explore bright and contrasting colors. • explore a variety of textures, including wet, slimy, and sticky. • express feelings, wants, and needs through movement. • listen to music and experiment with toy instruments. |

DISCOVER

Always on the move

Toddlers may seem to be all over the map with their newly acquired skills, like walking and talking. Yet they're doing much more than trying out words and teetering around—they're exploring their worlds and discovering their interests.

Our Early Foundations® Toddler program supports toddlers' increasing mobility by including a variety of activities and places that are safe and engaging. We know that toddlers learn best in a safe, loving environment, and we facilitate that by creating spaces where they can explore, interact fully with their surroundings, and do things the way they want to—all by themselves, in their own way. The activities for this age group are built upon toddlers' limitless curiosity and their natural desire to push boundaries.

CURRICULUM FEATURES:

- Activities aligned to current early learning standards covering 6 developmental areas of focus
- Six distinct Learning Centers with weekly enhancements to extend child-initiated learning
- Theme-related outdoor activities to support physical development and wellness
- Monthly Family Notes with program highlights



A glimpse at your toddler's day

During your toddler's day with us, he or she will be exposed to counting, interact with music, sort and classify objects, explore the concept of cause and effect, learn to follow simple instructions, begin to discover writing, develop physical skills through games, and learn to manage emotions. In between all of that, they will take much needed rests at naptime.

In the area of...

Your toddler will:

| | |
|--|--|
| Language and Literacy Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use one or two words to label objects and express needs, wants, and interests. • build an understanding of words through interactions with adults, including reading books. • imitate reading behaviors, such as turning pages and babbling or talking while looking at pictures. • begin to explore writing by making simple marks and scribbles on paper. |
| Executive Function | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recall the location of objects, such as remembering where to find a specific toy. • follow simple rules some of the time. • observe and imitate how others use objects, complete tasks, or solve problems. • demonstrate an ability to control impulses some of the time. |
| Social and Emotional Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • show increased interest in interacting with familiar adults. • show increased interest in interacting with other children. • manage emotions independently or with the help of a familiar adult. • notice when other children are upset and may try to help them feel better. |
| Physical Development and Wellness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn to walk independently and start to run. • play games that develop throwing, kicking, and striking skills. • show an increasing ability to control hand movements. • start to communicate during mealtime using simple words. |
| Cognitive Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an interest in counting and start to identify one, two, or three objects. • understand location words (up, down) and become aware of differences in size and volume (big, small). • sort and classify objects, such as helping a teacher make piles of different colored toys. • explore cause and effect by discovering new ways to play with toys. |
| Creative Expression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create art using materials, such as crayons and clay. • move creatively alongside peers to learn body awareness and build social skills. • enter the world of make believe with simple props, such as toy phones and puppets. • interact with music through games, simple songs, and toy instruments. |

EXPLORE

Increasing brain power every day

Two-year-olds are incredible learners. Every day at this age they are discovering more and more—about themselves and about the world around them. Our holistic approach to teaching children in this age group means we're engaging young minds with a blend of music, art, and movement, as well as equipping children with the fundamentals they'll need to thrive as they continue on to preschool.

CURRICULUM FEATURES:

- Activities aligned to current early learning standards covering 6 developmental areas of focus
- Focus on executive-function skills during morning and afternoon routines
- Four theme-related outdoor activities per month
- Monthly Family Notes with program highlights as well as suggestions for families to extend children's learning at home



A day in the life of your Discovery Preschooler

Your two-year-old's day will consist of learning activities and social opportunities such as mastering simple addition and subtraction problems, building science knowledge, using creative movement, and exploring props and dress-up clothes. No child's day would be complete without a variety of group activities through which to make great friends and practice fundamental social skills, such as cooperation, sharing, and taking turns.

In the area of... Your Discovery Preschooler will:

| | |
|--|---|
| Language and Literacy Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a growing vocabulary to communicate for a variety of purposes, such as to express needs, wants, and ideas. • learn to distinguish the difference between similar-sounding words by playing rhyming games. • begin to ask and answer simple questions about stories in books. • show an early understanding that drawing and writing are ways to communicate. |
| Executive Function | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete simple two-step tasks, such as locating and stacking red blocks when asked to build a red tower. • begin to follow rules independently, such as walking to the sink to wash hands. • ignore distractions for several minutes while attending to an activity. • think creatively about new ways to play with a toy or complete a task. |
| Social and Emotional Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interact with new people and feel comfortable playing in their presence. • share with other children and take turns, with help from adults. • build an appreciation for diversity by recognizing and discussing how people are the same and how they are different. • complete activities with confidence and look for new challenges, such as putting on shoes and trying to tie the laces. |
| Physical Development and Wellness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve running skills and begin to jump, hop, and leap. • begin to understand and follow basic health and safety routines. • demonstrate increased control of hands and fingers. • begin to help prepare food, such as washing fruit and mixing and pouring ingredients. |
| Cognitive Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • begin to count, identify numerals, and name basic shapes. • explore simple addition and subtraction concepts using songs and manipulatives. • build science knowledge including the difference between day and night, and different types of weather. • show an understanding of basic social studies, such as people's roles within the community and technology. |
| Creative Expression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experiment with different art materials to create two- and three-dimensional artwork. • use creative movement to demonstrate his or her feelings. • explore dress-up clothing and props during imaginary play. • begin to use music to express feelings. |

SHARE

The most fun is learning

Preschoolers' worlds open up in exciting, new ways as children improve coordination, learn complex games, and begin to interact more with their peers. Our Early Foundations® Preschool program introduces language, math, science, Spanish, and social skills in a logical, natural sequence to encourage learning one step at a time. Our teachers also provide plenty of individual attention to support your child's unique needs.

CURRICULUM FEATURES:

- Activities aligned to current early learning standards covering 6 developmental areas of focus
- Up to five theme-related Spanish words introduced in each unit and incorporated into activities
- Literacy focus, such as new letters introduced weekly and writing journals incorporated into activities
- Two theme-related outdoor activities each day called "Get Thinking" and "Get Moving"



Exciting moments in your preschooler's day

Preschoolers at our centers spend the day taking part in a series of fun learning opportunities, including participating in science experiments led by adults; connecting number words and numerals to the quantities they represent; creating detailed artwork; playing movement games that involve following directions; and playing different characters in simple dramatic scenarios.

In the area of...

Your preschooler will:

| | |
|--|--|
| Language and Literacy Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in longer conversations with adults and other children, using an expanding vocabulary. begin to identify the first sound in a word. identify and name five to ten letters and begin to know sounds for some letters. recognize his or her own name and begin to write it using both letters and letter-like forms. |
| Executive Function | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> take on simple activities independently, such as setting the table with cups and plates, and persist until finished. pay attention to a person or activity for five to ten minutes. examine new objects or situations with deeper curiosity. control impulses with fewer adult reminders. |
| Social and Emotional Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> build relationships with familiar adults, discussing thoughts and needs with them. seek out other children during play time and begin to build relationships with them. play cooperatively with other children, showing the ability to resolve disagreements with minimal help from adults. express a variety of emotions by incorporating emotions into pretend play. |
| Physical Development and Wellness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> begin to gallop while improving jumping, hopping, and leaping skills. trace letters and simple shapes, while also showing signs of a right- or left-hand preference. gain independence with self-care skills such as undressing to use the toilet and remembering to wash hands. identify healthy and unhealthy foods. |
| Cognitive Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> connect number words and numerals to the quantities they represent. engage in pretend play alone and/or with others by taking on roles and using props. participate in scientific experiments led by adults. show an understanding of history by discussing changes to his or her community. |
| Creative Expression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create detailed artwork that includes early representations of people, animals, and things. play movement games that involve following directions as well as creating unique moves. play a character role in simple dramatic scenarios from books. repeat more complex melodies and rhythm patterns. |

CREATE

Getting ready for school and a lifetime of learning together

Our Early Foundations® Prekindergarten program promotes independence while preparing your child for the next exciting phase in his or her education—kindergarten! We make the transition smooth by helping the Prekindergartners become increasingly familiar with a more highly organized environment. We focus on group play to develop social skills, such as listening, sharing, and cooperation. Our passionate, dedicated teachers partner with you during this special time in your child's life to make it the best it can be.

CURRICULUM FEATURES:

- Activities aligned to current early learning standards covering 6 developmental areas of focus
- Spanish activities three times a week including seasonal activity books designed to reinforce learning
- Literacy focus, such as an emphasis on 5 high-frequency words per unit
- Child-made math and literacy journals created at the start of every season



A peek at your prekindergartner's day

Your prekindergartner will spend the day with us exploring a variety of cultures; performing simple addition and subtraction, up to ten; creating simple patterns; following multi-step directions in a song; participating in a variety of musical adventures; crafting detailed works of art using carefully selected materials; and having great fun in the process.

In the area of...

Your prekindergartner will:

| | |
|--|---|
| Language and Literacy Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe familiar people, places, things, and events with detail. retell a familiar story with the beginning, middle, and end in order. write his or her own name as well as many other letters. use writing as a way to describe experiences or feelings, producing drawings and letters. |
| Executive Function | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remember information and thoughts from past experiences. help develop a plan for completing a multi-step project, such as building a community with blocks. complete challenging activities that require greater focus and persistence. recognize the feelings of others and respond appropriately, such as comforting a child who is upset. |
| Social and Emotional Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seek out interactions with a variety of adults, including both new and familiar people. routinely share, take turns, and interact with other children in a respectful and helpful manner. recognize and accept similarities and differences among people, showing an appreciation for diversity. demonstrate an ability to resolve conflicts using words. |
| Physical Development and Wellness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> coordinate a variety of body movements to catch and throw a ball and move through obstacle courses. participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 2 hours daily. use scissors to cut simple shapes and writing utensils to trace letters and numbers with greater accuracy. discuss how exercise makes the body feel. |
| Cognitive Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create simple patterns and arrange objects according to size. perform simple addition and subtraction using manipulatives. use knowledge and personal experiences to predict outcomes of scientific experiments. explore a variety of cultures by identifying ways people are alike and different. |
| Creative Expression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> craft detailed works of art using carefully selected materials, such as paint, modeling clay, and collage materials. move to a tempo, beat, or style of music. follow multiple-step directions as stated in a song, such as hopping or clapping. participate in a variety of musical experiences. |

LEARN

A great school experience starts here

Our Early Foundations® Kindergarten programs* are taught in a safe, familiar environment children know and love. This makes learning more fun and effective. The programs are:

- **Kindergarten** – First grade is just around the corner, and your kindergartner is rapidly developing the skills needed to make the leap to first grade with confidence. Our academically rich kindergarten program meets learning standards at state and national levels, and instills a lifelong love of learning in areas such as reading, writing, math, and science.
- **Interactive Kindergarten** – Kindergartners who discover that learning is fun are better prepared to make the leap to first grade. Our interactive kindergarten program, powered by K12 Inc., is designed to encourage children to explore, communicate, and create with confidence. An interactive whiteboard engages children in collaborative learning with their peers.

*AVAILABLE AT SELECT CENTERS.
ASK YOUR DIRECTOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Our kindergarten programs feature:

- Full-day program
- Individualized attention in a small classroom setting
- Curriculum that aligns with state and national standards
- Educational field trips and school presentations that build on classroom learning

GROW

The perfect combination of fun, friendship, and learning

Even after school's out for the day, children need to be engaged in a comfortable, yet stimulating environment. That's where our School-Age program* comes in. This innovative before- and after-school program allows school-age children to balance learning and fun through a variety of experiences. From homework help to fun physical activities, our program is designed so that everyone goes home happy.

You'll be delighted to know many centers provide transportation to and from neighborhood schools, too. As always, we touch base with you every day so you know what your child is learning.

*AVAILABLE AT SELECT CENTERS.
ASK YOUR DIRECTOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LEARNING ADVENTURES®

Enrichment classes in Phonics, Reading, Math, Spanish, Music, and Cooking

If your child's appetite for learning is insatiable, enroll him or her in one of our many fun and educational Learning Adventures* programs. We purposefully limit the size of each program to allow for individualized instruction. These additional small-group enrichment activities are designed to bolster your child's learning experience.

SUMMER BREAK

Where summer learning and fun begin

All summer long, learning and fun are one during our Summer Break program. Talk with your Director about the great themed units and activities designed to help children learn while soaking up the fun and making new friends. Children in our Summer Break program not only have a great time, they retain the knowledge they worked so hard all year to acquire. Come every day or choose what works for you!

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Ready for new challenges

Our Early Foundations® Transitional Kindergarten* program was designed to meet the needs of children who have completed or mastered prekindergarten, but may have missed the cutoff date for kindergarten. Children take the lead and work in small- and whole-groups to complete projects. In each project-related learning phase, children are engaged in key competencies that ensure their success in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

*AVAILABLE AT SELECT CENTERS.
ASK YOUR DIRECTOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.





KinderCare.com



cclc.com



discoverchampions.com



KnowledgeBeginnings.com

The **Knowledge Universe**® Family of Brands