

Curriculum

For the School Entry Level (SEL)

The School Entry Level (SEL) serves as a transition from Preschool to First Grade and plays a major role in supporting, motivating and challenging our young students when it comes to expanding their individual abilities, finding joy in learning and reinforcing knowledge. It builds a foundation for successful learning in Elementary School and fosters self-competence as well as social-emotional and academic competencies in our students. Additionally, our students continue to develop existing motor and cognitive skills during their year at the SEL.

Age of Children

The School Entry Level is open to children whose 5th birthday is on or before August 1st of a given calendar year. Children, who will turn five by December 31st of that year may be accepted into SEL based upon a parent request followed by an evaluation and a consultation with Preschool, SEL and Elementary School personnel.

Learning Environment

Our classrooms are inviting and offer many age-appropriate educational toys and materials. Written and visual aids help the children gain an understanding of the concept of *Language, Communication and Early Literacy*. Our students learn that they are individuals as well as a part of a group by taking on tasks and responsibilities for themselves and others. They maintain a calendar and a weather chart which help them sharpen their senses for their environment. With the help of a daily schedule, they develop a sense of organization for their day.

Learning Content

Children in this age group learn best when they experience togetherness, play and new impulses. We teach language as well as mathematical, scientific, musical and artistic concepts via age-appropriate topics. Every learning unit integrates all of these subjects and offers the students the option to expand on topics of interest playfully or, depending on their individual academic development, by choosing more challenging exercises. The interdisciplinary approach that we follow in SEL aims at fostering the following competencies in our students:

Self-competence

Includes the following educational areas and goals:

Emotional Learning

- Self-confidence
- Independence
- Decision-making ability
- Recognizing and describing one's feelings
- Navigating frustration and conflicts and finding solutions
- Recognizing oneself as a person and finding one's place in a group

Social skills

Includes the following educational areas and goals:

Social Learning

- Empathy and tolerance
- Thoughtfulness
- Ability to communicate

- Verbal and non-verbal social cues
- Taking responsibility for oneself and others
- Becoming a team player
- Sharing
- Recognizing conflicts and solving them verbally
- Recognizing socially acceptable and socially unacceptable behavior
- Accepting and including others and unfamiliar traditions

Academic skills

Includes the following educational areas and goals:

Mathematical skills

- Calculating in the number range 0-20
- Recognizing and depicting numbers
- Understanding the idea of quantities and numbers
- Qualifying quantities and numbers
- Comparing, classifying, sorting and organizing of objects
- Recognizing and naming shapes
- Recognizing and continuing patterns
- Weights and measurements

Linguistic skills

- Developing vocabulary
- Articulating appropriately
- Listening
- Understanding and following instructions
- Recognizing and using grammatical structures
- Recognizing and using rhymes and syllables
- Correctly interpreting and dramatically performing narratives and texts
- Understanding spoken and written words as communication tools
- Developing a love for writing and reading
- Practicing basic fine motor skills necessary for writing

Scientific and technical skills

- Experiencing environment, technology and nature
- Recognizing and describing the seasons
- Discovering and describing animals, their behavior and their habitats
- Discovering and comparing life cycles
- Recognizing and describing physical and chemical interrelations
- Hypothesizing
- Developing ideas to support or rebut hypotheses
- Executing easy experiments
- Documenting interrelations visually

Artistic skills

- Showing concepts artistically
- Naming, mixing and learning about colors
- Creating art with different materials
- Naming and learning about different media
- Developing a love for art and creativity
- Learning to evaluate pieces of art
- Developing new concepts based on art
- Developing fine motor skills, perceptivity and concentration
- Correct use of art supplies

Music skills

- Developing an interest in music, rhythm and sound
- Understanding music as a means of communication
- Expressing ideas through music
- Understanding dance and movement in connection with music
- Learning about and describing musical instruments and their sound
- Learning about and practicing musical parameters, e.g. loud-quiet, fast-slow

Motor skills and healthy habits

- Age-appropriate development of gross motor skills, e.g. climbing, balancing, rolling, throwing, catching, etc.
- Age-appropriate development of fine motor skills, e.g. establishing writing hand and practicing secure grip on pen
- Practicing cutting of two-dimensional objects with scissors
- Stringing beads and grasping with thumb and index finger
- Understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy food
- Understanding movement as an important factor for development and health
- Prevention of illness and germs

German language skills

- Developing a useful and age-appropriate German vocabulary
- Building on existing competencies in German
- Practicing listening comprehension and pronunciation
- Recognizing and practicing sentence patterns

English language skills

- Developing and building on a relevant and age-appropriate vocabulary
- Practicing listening comprehension and pronunciation
- Recognizing and practicing sentence patterns