



Olive & Ark

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# OLIVE & ARK

ADVANCED KINDERGARTEN PREP

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CHRIST-CENTERED PROGRAM GUIDE

**ROOTED IN FAITH. RICH IN READINESS.**

DESIGNED TO HELP CHILDREN GROW IN  
WISDOM, CHARACTER, AND  
CONFIDENCE.



CURRICULUM

# *Advanced Kindergarten Prep Curriculum*

## **1. LITERACY (ABOVE STANDARD K READINESS)**

**Goal:** Early readers + strong comprehension + communication

**Skills:**

- Letter-sound mastery (phonics-based, not just recognition)
- Blending sounds into words (CVC → CVCC → simple sentences)
- Sight words (top 50-100)
- Story sequencing + retelling
- Writing simple sentences (inventive spelling encouraged)

**Advanced Layer:**

- Introduce why questions (“Why did the character do that?”)
- Predicting story outcomes
- Journaling (draw + write daily)

**Activities:**

- Guided reading circles (small groups)
- “Author of the Week” storytelling
- Sound games (segmenting, rhyming chains)

## **2. MATH (CONCEPTUAL, NOT JUST COUNTING)**

**Goal:** Strong number sense + early problem-solving

**Skills:**

- Counting to 100 (by 1s, 5s, 10s)
- Basic addition/subtraction (within 10, then 20)
- Number bonds
- Shapes, patterns, measurement
- Comparing quantities

**Advanced Layer:**

- Word problems (“You have 3 apples, I give you 2...”)
- Intro to skip counting → foundation for multiplication
- Basic graphing (weather charts, favorites)

**Activities:**

- Hands-on manipulatives (blocks, beads)
- Real-life math (snack counting, measuring)
- Pattern-building stations



### 3. EXECUTIVE FUNCTION & INDEPENDENCE (THIS IS WHAT SETS KIDS APART)

**Goal:** Kids who can function confidently in a classroom

**Skills:**

- Following 2-3 step directions
- Task completion without constant prompting
- Cleaning up + organizing materials
- Time awareness (transitions)

**Advanced Layer:**

- Self-checking work
- Choosing activities independently
- Managing frustration

**Activities:**

- Visual schedules
- “Work cycles” (Montessori-style independent work blocks)
- Responsibility jobs

### 4. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CRITICAL FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS)

**Goal:** Emotionally regulated, socially aware children

**Skills:**

- Identifying emotions
- Taking turns, sharing
- Conflict resolution language
- Listening in group settings

**Advanced Layer:**

- Perspective-taking (“How do they feel?”)
- Problem-solving without adult intervention
- Calm-down strategies

**Activities:**

- Role-playing scenarios
- Circle time discussions
- “Peace corner” or calm-down space



## 5. FINE & GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

**Goal:** Kindergarten-ready physically (hugely overlooked)

**Fine Motor:**

- Pencil grip + control
- Cutting, tracing, drawing
- Hand strength (playdough, tweezers)

**Gross Motor:**

- Balance, coordination
- Crossing midline (important for brain development)

**Advanced Layer:**

- Writing stamina (short sentences)
- Coordinated movement games

## 6. INQUIRY & CRITICAL THINKING (THIS IS THE DIFFERENTIATOR)

**Goal:** Curious, thinking learners—not just compliant ones

**Skills:**

- Asking questions
- Observing and describing
- Making simple predictions

**Advanced Layer:**

- Basic experiments (“What will happen if...”)
- Nature-based learning (huge fit for your brand)
- Problem-solving challenges

**Activities:**

- STEM bins
- Nature walks + journals
- Building challenges (blocks, loose parts)

## 7. CREATIVE EXPRESSION

**Goal:** Confidence + identity + communication

**Skills:**

- Open-ended art
- Music + rhythm
- Dramatic play

**Advanced Layer:**

- Story creation through art
- Collaborative projects



## DAILY FLOW - SAMPLE

- Arrival + Independent Work (30–45 min)
- Circle Time (Literacy focus)
- Learning Block 1 (Math / Literacy groups)
- Outdoor / Nature Play
- Lunch + Social Learning
- Quiet Time / Reading
- Learning Block 2 (STEM / Creative)
- Choice Centers / Independent Work
- Closing Circle (Reflection)

## WHY OLIVE & ARK?

- Small group instruction (not one-size-fits-all)
- Emphasis on thinking, not memorization
- Independence training (huge gap in most programs)
- Real-world application (not worksheets-only)
- Strong communication skills (kids who can express themselves stand out immediately in kindergarten)

## *Character & Confidence Curriculum*

*Developing capable children with strong character,  
clear communication, and quiet confidence.*

## WHAT IT IS

Our *Character & Confidence Curriculum* is intentionally woven into each day at Olive & Ark. It focuses on developing the life skills children need to thrive—not just in kindergarten, but in life.

We guide children in becoming:

- Respectful communicators
- Independent problem-solvers
- Thoughtful and kind peers
- Confident in who they are



## WHAT WE TEACH

### **Social Confidence**

- Greeting others with eye contact and respect
- Speaking clearly in group settings
- Taking turns in conversation

### **Emotional Intelligence**

- Identifying and expressing emotions
- Practicing self-regulation strategies
- Navigating conflict with confidence

### **Independence & Responsibility**

- Completing tasks without constant guidance
- Caring for personal and shared spaces
- Taking ownership of actions and choices

### **Etiquette & Everyday Manners**

- Table manners and mealtime behavior
- Using polite language naturally
- Practicing patience and awareness in group settings

### **Communication Skills**

- Asking for help appropriately
- Expressing needs clearly and respectfully
- Listening without interrupting

### **Leadership & Initiative**

- Helping others with confidence
- Taking on classroom responsibilities
- Leading by example in behavior and attitude

## ROOTED IN JESUS

Through our *Not Consumed Bible Curriculum* children learn that true confidence comes from knowing who they are in Christ.

We reinforce:

- Kindness and compassion
- Gratitude and humility
- Courage and perseverance
- Love for others



## WHY IT MATTERS

Kindergarten readiness is not just academic.

Children who succeed in the classroom are those who can:

- Follow directions
- Communicate clearly
- Manage emotions
- Build positive relationships

Our *Character & Confidence Curriculum* ensures your child enters kindergarten with the tools to stand out—not just academically, but socially and emotionally.

## THE OUTCOME

Children leave Olive & Ark:

- Confident in new environments
- Capable of independent learning
- Respectful and socially aware
- Prepared to lead, not follow

# Curriculum Calendar Overview

## SEPTEMBER: FOUNDATIONS & BELONGING

### Life Skills & Etiquette:

- How to greet others (eye contact, saying hello)
- Carrying and organizing personal belongings
- Cleaning up after activities
- Using “please” and “thank you”

*Focus: Basic independence + respectful communication*  
(Not Consumed - Books 1)

## OCTOBER: EXPLORATION & CURIOSITY

### Life Skills & Etiquette:

- Listening without interrupting
- Asking thoughtful questions (“Can I...?” “Why...?”)
- Taking care of shared materials
- Respecting nature and environment

*Focus: Awareness + respect for surroundings*  
(Not Consumed - Books 2-3)



## NOVEMBER: GRATITUDE & CONNECTION

### Life Skills & Etiquette:

- Table manners (sitting properly, using utensils)
- Expressing gratitude verbally
- Waiting turns in conversation
- Writing/dictating thank-you notes

*Focus: Gratitude + social awareness*  
(Not Consumed - Books 3-4)

## DECEMBER: GIVING & JOY

### Life Skills & Etiquette:

- Giving vs receiving (gracious behavior)
- Including others in play
- Speaking kindly about others
- Practicing patience in group settings
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*Focus: Generosity + inclusion*  
(Not Consumed - Books 5-6)

## JANUARY: INDEPENDENCE & GROWTH

### Life Skills & Etiquette:

- Completing tasks independently
- Managing frustration appropriately
- Following multi-step instructions
- Taking responsibility for mistakes

*Focus: Self-management + accountability*  
(Not Consumed - Books 6-8)

## FEBRUARY: LOVE & FRIENDSHIP

### Life Skills & Etiquette:

- Conflict resolution language (“I feel...”, “Can we...”)
- Apologizing sincerely
- Respecting personal space
- Being a thoughtful friend

*Focus: Emotional intelligence + relationships*  
(Not Consumed - Books 8-9)



## MARCH: DISCOVERY & THINKING

### **Life Skills & Etiquette:**

- Problem-solving before asking for help
- Working collaboratively
- Respecting others' ideas
- Using materials with care during projects

*Focus: Independence + teamwork*  
(Not Consumed - Books 9-10)

## APRIL: CONFIDENCE & LEADERSHIP

### **Life Skills & Etiquette:**

- Speaking confidently in a group
- Helping others without taking over
- Leading by example
- Practicing responsibility roles (line leader, helper)

*Focus: Leadership + initiative*  
(Not Consumed - Books 10-11)

## MAY: CELEBRATION & TRANSITION

### **Life Skills & Etiquette:**

- Preparing for new environments (kindergarten readiness)
- Introducing themselves confidently
- Packing belongings independently
- Expressing appreciation to teachers and peers

*Focus: Confidence + transition readiness*  
(Review Not Consumed studies)

## FEBRUARY: LOVE & FRIENDSHIP

### **Life Skills & Etiquette:**

- Conflict resolution language ("I feel...", "Can we...")
- Apologizing sincerely
- Respecting personal space
- Being a thoughtful friend

*Focus: Emotional intelligence + relationships*  
(Not Consumed - Books 8-9)

