



DISCOVERY SCHOOL

PLAY BASED
NATURE INSPIRED
ACADEMICALLY FOCUSED

A GUIDE TO KINDER

- Strong academics
- Certified teachers
- Hands on learning
- Screen-free
- Hybrid: with a focus on family time
- Play-based

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 9TH

WWW.PROJECTPLAY.NET

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Choosing the right kindergarten program is a huge decision. For many families, this is the first time they are deciding between a traditional public school setting and a more personalized learning environment. At Project Play, we want families to feel informed, confident, and secure in their choice.

Project Play was founded by educators with experience in both public and private school systems. Our leadership and teaching team understand academic standards, classroom expectations, and the developmental needs of young children. We believe kindergarten should build a strong academic foundation while preserving curiosity, joy, and a love of learning.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

At Project Play, we believe children learn best through a balance of strong academics, purposeful play, and meaningful relationships. Our kindergarten program is intentionally designed to support the whole child academically, socially, and emotionally.

We do not rush children through content, nor do we rely on worksheets or rote memorization. Instead, learning happens through hands-on lessons, small group instruction, movement, exploration, and play. This approach allows children to engage deeply with content while building confidence and independence.

HYBRID LEARNING

Project Play kindergarten follows a hybrid learning model designed to balance in-person instruction with meaningful at-home learning. In-person class days are **Tuesday through Thursday, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM**. With an optional Monday enrichment class. During these days, students engage in direct instruction, hands-on learning, small group work, collaborative projects, play, and outdoor exploration. This is when new concepts are introduced, modeled, and practiced with teacher support.

At-home learning days are Monday and Friday. On these days, families are provided with simple, intentional activities that reinforce skills taught in class. At-home work is designed to be developmentally appropriate, manageable for families, and focused on practice rather than busywork. Activities may include reading together, light written practice, math games, or hands-on exploration connected to classroom themes.

This structure allows children to:

- Benefit from focused, high-quality in-person instruction
- Practice independence and responsibility at home
- Avoid academic burnout while maintaining consistent learning routines
- Experience flexibility while still meeting academic expectations

Our hybrid model supports family schedules while ensuring children remain connected, challenged, and supported throughout the week.

TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ALIGNMENT

Our kindergarten program follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Kindergarten. These standards outline what students across Texas should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.

While our instruction may look different from a traditional classroom, our learning goals remain aligned with state expectations. TEKS standards are taught through developmentally appropriate, hands-on instruction that meets children where they are.

Families may view the official Kindergarten TEKS through the Texas Education Agency:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/curriculum-standards/teks>

LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

Literacy instruction focuses on building strong foundational reading and writing skills.

Students develop:

- Phonological awareness and phonics
- Letter recognition and sound correspondence
- Vocabulary development and comprehension
- Handwriting and fine motor skills
- Early writing skills, including words and simple sentences

Instruction is delivered through read-alouds, guided reading, phonics activities, shared writing, writing journals, and small group instruction based on student readiness.

MATH CURRICULUM

Math instruction emphasizes number sense, reasoning, and real-world application.

Students develop:

- Counting, number recognition, and quantity
- Addition and subtraction concepts
- Shapes, patterns, and spatial awareness
- Measurement and comparison
- Problem-solving skills

Lessons are taught through manipulatives, games, movement-based activities, math centers, and hands-on exploration.

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

Science and social studies are integrated into thematic units that encourage curiosity and critical thinking.

Students explore:

- Weather, plants, animals, and the natural world
- Community roles and responsibilities
- Cooperation, rules, and citizenship
- Basic geography and time concepts

Learning occurs through experiments, outdoor exploration, group discussions, and collaborative projects.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Social and emotional development is a foundational part of our kindergarten program. Children are supported in developing independence, communication skills, emotional regulation, and collaboration.

Small class sizes allow teachers to build strong relationships with each child and intentionally support growth in confidence, resilience, and problem-solving.

KINDERGARTEN BENCHMARKS

We monitor progress through teacher observation, assessments, and student work samples.

Beginning of Year

- Letter recognition and early phonics awareness
- Number recognition and counting skills
- Understanding classroom routines and expectations
- Fine motor development

Middle of Year

- Emerging reading skills and comprehension
- Writing simple words and sentences
- Basic addition and subtraction concepts
- Increased independence and confidence

End of Year

- Reading simple texts with understanding
- Writing sentences to express ideas
- Strong number sense and problem-solving skills
- Readiness for first grade academically, socially, and emotionally

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

8:30–9:00 AM

Arrival and soft start activities

9:00–9:20 AM

Morning meeting and community building

9:20–10:20 AM

Literacy block

Small group instruction, phonics, read-alouds, and hands-on literacy activities

10:20–10:50 AM

Museum play

Open-ended, child-led play connected to classroom learning

10:50–11:30 AM

Math block

Hands-on instruction using manipulatives, games, and problem-solving activities

11:30 AM–12:00 PM

Lunch

12:00–1:00 PM

Outdoor play and exploration

1:00–1:40 PM

Science, social studies, or project-based learning

Thematic units, experiments, and collaborative projects

1:40–2:15 PM

Creative exploration and centers

Art, building, sensory activities, and guided play

2:15–2:45 PM

Choice time and small group support

Reinforcement, enrichment, or individualized instruction

2:45–3:00 PM

Closing circle and dismissal prep

HOW PROJECT PLAY COMPARES TO PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN

Public kindergarten classrooms often serve larger groups of students and follow a more standardized instructional model. While many public schools offer wonderful opportunities, they may have limited flexibility due to class size and pacing requirements.

At Project Play, small class sizes allow for individualized instruction, flexible pacing, and deeper teacher-student relationships. Children are still meeting TEKS standards, but through hands-on learning, movement, play, and small group instruction rather than primarily worksheet-based learning.

Our goal is not to replace public education, but to offer a thoughtful alternative for families seeking a more personalized, developmentally appropriate kindergarten experience.

IS PROJECT PLAY KINDERGARTEN THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOUR FAMILY?

Project Play kindergarten may be a great fit if you are looking for:

- Small class sizes and individualized attention
- A balance of academics and play
- Hands-on, movement-based learning
- Strong communication and relationships with teachers
- An environment where children feel seen, valued, and supported

Families who value flexibility, creativity, and a child-centered approach often find that Project Play provides a strong foundation for lifelong learning. We are honored to partner with families during this important year and are committed to supporting each child's growth with intention, care, and expertise.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does Project Play kindergarten prepare children for first grade?

Our kindergarten program is designed to build strong academic foundations while also supporting independence, confidence, and social development. Children leave Project Play with the literacy, math, and problem-solving skills needed for first grade, as well as the ability to follow routines, work collaboratively, and advocate for themselves.

Is this program aligned with state standards?

Yes. Our kindergarten curriculum follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). While our instruction is hands-on and play-based, learning goals remain aligned with state expectations. Children are meeting standards in a way that is developmentally appropriate and engaging.

How do you assess student progress?

We use teacher observation, informal assessments, student work samples, and ongoing communication to monitor progress. Because of our small class sizes, teachers are able to track growth closely and adjust instruction to meet individual needs.

Will my child be ready to transition to public or private school after kindergarten?

Yes. Children who complete kindergarten at Project Play are academically, socially, and emotionally prepared to transition into first grade in either a public or private school setting. Our focus on independence, confidence, and foundational skills supports a smooth transition.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does a typical day look like?

Each day includes a balance of academic instruction, hands-on learning, play, outdoor time, and community building. Children participate in literacy and math instruction, one hour of open-ended play, one hour of outdoor play, and project-based learning throughout the day.

How large are class sizes?

We intentionally keep class sizes small to allow for individualized instruction, meaningful relationships, and flexible pacing. This ensures each child is known, supported, and challenged appropriately.

Is play really part of learning?

Yes. Play is a critical part of how young children learn. Through play, children practice academic skills, build social understanding, develop problem-solving abilities, and strengthen executive functioning skills. At Project Play, play is purposeful and thoughtfully integrated into the school day.

How is Project Play different from traditional kindergarten?

Project Play offers a more personalized, relationship-driven approach. While traditional classrooms may rely on larger groups and standardized pacing, our program emphasizes hands-on learning, movement, small group instruction, and flexibility while still meeting academic standards.

NEXT STEPS

We believe kindergarten should be a magical place where children are challenged and supported, while still being given the time and space to simply be kids.

Our Commitment to Families

At Project Play, families can expect:

- Small class sizes and individualized attention
- Texas TEKS aligned instruction delivered through hands-on, meaningful learning
- A balance of academics, play, and social-emotional development
- Consistent communication and a strong home-school partnership
- A nurturing environment where children are known, supported, and encouraged

Next Steps

Families interested in Project Play Kindergarten are invited to begin with a tour and family interview.

Application opens February 9th

Contact Us:

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www.projectplay.net