

Reception (Kindergarten) Overview

Introduction: There is a natural progression from the Preschool class to the Reception class in our school. Children continue to enjoy a variety of play activities within the classroom and have many opportunities to explore our surroundings, through play during our break times, as well as during the local walks and school trips we embark on during the school year. We believe in a balance between traditional education and learning through play and experience - inside and outside the classroom.

The Curriculum: Our curriculum is topic based. In addition, we celebrate both smaller and larger events and achievements during the school year from birthdays, to special occasions which arise from the different cultures we have within our class, to new pets and new babies at home to visits from special people, to the first snowfalls and spring bulbs in the world outside to reading and writing in the classroom.

We follow the guidelines of the British Early Years Foundation Stage, which is divided into seven areas of learning and development:

- **Communication and language:** Children are given many opportunities to experience a rich language environment and to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves.
- **Physical Development:** We provide opportunities for the children to be active and interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement skills.
- **Personal, social and emotional development:** Children are encouraged to develop a positive sense of themselves and to have confidence in their own abilities. They are introduced to ideas of how to manage their own feelings and are encouraged to form positive relationships and develop respect for others.
- **Literacy:** Children are encouraged to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. As well as learning the initial sounds through a mixture of play and more formal activities, children are given access to a wide range of reading materials including story books, big books, poems and large classroom story friezes.
- **Mathematics:** Children are provided with a variety of opportunities to further their counting and number skills. Additionally, they are given many opportunities to develop their skills in other areas of Mathematics, including: patterning; sorting; shape; time and measuring. We often approach these areas through play and the children are then guided through the steps of recording their work, through group and individual activities.
- **Understanding the world:** Children learn to make sense of their physical world and their community by exploring, observing and finding out about their environment.
- **Expressive arts and design:** Creativity is an important part of successful learning. Children explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. Imaginative play, dance and drama also feature under this area of the curriculum. It in turn enables children to make connections between their own experiences, solve problems and be inventive.

Our Requirements for children entering our Reception Class:

- The main requirement is that students are able to go to the toilet by themselves. In addition, children should be able to wash and dry their own hands, and know to do so after visiting the toilet.
- We would appreciate it if children were able to dress themselves. We understand that this may not always be possible, but if you could buy items that your child is able to cope with then it will be far less stressful for everyone involved. Larger buttons or zips are far easier for little fingers to cope with, and slip-on shoes, or those with Velcro fastenings are much more convenient.
- Your child needs to be able to feed themselves. This is particularly important for those of you whose children will be bringing a packed lunch: It would be appreciated if your child is able to eat the food which you send in with them.
- Social skills are the key to making and keeping friends at school, and your child needs to know a few basic social skills. These include: Learning to share and take turns and understanding boundaries for acceptable behavior.
- Any opportunity you have to let your child mix with other children before they start school will help them to develop their social skills.

Preliminary Visit: Please do not hesitate to contact the school and make arrangements to visit us with your child before you register your child for our programme and do let us know if you have any questions. Email: info@britishschool.ch