



Our Lady of Good Success Academy

Educating Youth for the Glory of God

J†M†J



Our Lady Of Good Success Kindergarten Curriculum

Kindergarten students do most of their learning orally and experientially. Many days will be spent in the carrying out of a routine of practicing orally those things being learned and recited. Begin the kindergarten day with prayers, then move on to “Calendar Time,” where the weather, temperature, announcement of the line leader and teacher’s helper, and other things being memorized are carried out. This is a good time to recite days of the week, the months in order, the sacraments, the mysteries of the Rosary, the counting by 10’s, 5’s, or 2’s, or anything else being recited that would seem beneficial. In the beginning of the year, reminders about ‘red light’ and ‘yellow light’ times would be helpful. The teacher should discipline herself to address ‘red light’ and ‘yellow light’ infractions immediately so the rest of the class does not get out of hand, and order and formation are kept in the highest regard. Then, and only then, can learning take place. The last quarter of the year, begin to extend the students’ red light time, while requiring them to work silently more often.

Religion

Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God, Meal Prayers, Act of Contrition, exposure to the Rosary

The Seven Sacraments

Mysteries of the Rosary

Baltimore Catechism – First Communion Catechism (begin learning first few questions)

Leading the Little Ones to Mary by Sister M. Lelia

Catholic Mother’s Helper

Catholic Children’s Picture Bible (Bible History)

Various lives of the saints (choose a few for them to learn well)

The teacher should endeavor to weave the content of these lessons into all the other subjects as often as possible, as opportunities present themselves. Religion, being the Queen of the Sciences, holds the pride of place as the first subject of the day. Begin with a story aloud from *Catholic Mother’s Helper* or *Leading the Little Ones to Mary* to help put the children in the right frame of mind to practice virtue. Move on to quizzing the children on a lesson learned the previous day or week, or playing “what is,” which is a game of reversal in which the teacher supplies clues to a sacrament or something else being studied, and the children raise hands and guess. Move to the lesson of the day from Bible history or a life of a saint, or a talk on the sacraments or the Rosary. End with a coloring, drawing, or writing project to reinforce the lesson. Display the children’s work.

Math

A Beka Arithmetic K5

Saxon Math K Meeting Book (a calendar book)

Use hands-on manipulatives to learn counting by 10’s, 5’s, and 2’s, construct patterns of up to three colors in various combinations, (e.g. ab, abb, abc, etc.).

Colors and shapes

Knot-tying

Small books can be made by the students demonstrating counting and writing the numbers, and drawing the shapes

Begin memorizing the basic addition and subtraction facts



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Math time can begin with some stretching and gentle exercise to freshen the brain. Move on to oral work standing behind or beside the chair, which can consist of counting aloud, asking individual questions, quizzing the current topic, or other memory work. The students then benefit from some hands-on work with manipulatives and finally work on a math worksheet of the day, or a project like a numbers book or a shapes book. It will be important to allow the children time at the board. This offers a change of pace and a change of medium, and also allows the teacher to see immediately who understands the material and who doesn't.

Poetry/Singing

Memory exercises in various nursery rhymes, classic children's poetry, folk and nursery songs, and finger plays and chants.

Simple Latin Hymns (e.g. Salve Regina, Regina Coeli, etc.)

The *Wee Sing* books

A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson

Nursery Rhyme books

Poetry and Singing time is a favorite among the kindergarten class. Review a poem line by line and have them repeat it. After doing this successfully, the line leader could choose a favorite poem to recite. Then practice a hymn or other song, and repeat the process of having the line leader choose one to review. This subject should be kept light and fun. When beginning a new poem or song, it will be beneficial to use a little more time one day to draw or color a picture pertaining to it. This engages the child's mind on other levels.

Phonics

Spell to Write and Read by Wanda Sanseri - The beginning level of the program will be used to teach sounds, spelling, and eventually reading. Toward the end of the year students can practice reading very simple books.

Phonics should be taught everyday.

It is important that order be kept and the students are silent during the teaching of this subject because of its importance to learning. This should be 'red light' time. Begin by reviewing the phonograms being learned along with some from past weeks. Continue with the log book, or spelling exercise. Beneficial is to have a spelling practice with phonograms being learned and to alternate with words from the current spelling list, once that level has been reached. With this program, reading is not forced. Do not attempt to read aloud until the 4th quarter. This class time is also used for handwriting practice. Reinforce proper pencil grip and do not accept sloppy work. The teacher can erase, encourage, and have the child try again.

Literature

Read aloud from a collection of classic children's literature available in the classroom or from the public library. Questioning the children about the subject of the book or the virtues or vices contained therein will excite their attention. Of all activities that the students participate in, listening to stories well-written is the most beneficial to their success. Do not omit this activity each day school is in session. Books can and will be repeated, and the children enjoy this. If another subject's activity ends a few minutes early, a book can be read aloud to fill the time. Make the characters real to the students by recalling them at different times of the day. "I see someone being like the third little pig, doing good and careful work." "We don't want to act like Red Riding Hood, and not listen to mother or teacher."



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In the afternoon Literature period, read aloud from a chapter book with a simple theme, e.g. *The Boxcar Children*, *Little House in the Big Woods*, or a longer story of a saint's life. Books that an advanced second grader or a third grader can read to himself could be read aloud to a kindergarten class.

History/Geography

A globe or wall map of the world, America, and Missouri

Exposure to north, south, east, and west

Locations of America in the world, Missouri in America, Pike County in Missouri, Mississippi River in Pike County

Use every opportunity to expose the children to the locale of a piece of literature or where a saint lived. This subject has no separate text or workbook, but is woven into other subjects.

Science/Nature

Days of the week, months of the year

Seasons and their changes

Temperature

Weather

Five Senses

Nature Walks

Leaf collection, leaf rubbings

Recognition of common songbirds, birdfeeder in place visible from classroom

Aquarium

Names of Bones

Sprouting of seeds, parts of plants

There is no text for this subject. The teacher should endeavor to cultivate the natural sense of wonder in children by exciting their attention to the natural world and their place in it.

Art

The teacher should use certain days of the month to focus on drawing or doing another art or craft. The students greatly enjoy seeing their work displayed. The teacher should model how to draw correctly on the board using simple shapes the children already know how to make. This will give them great confidence in themselves. When possible, use classic artwork as a prop for a Bible story or lesson in Religion. Always draw attention to beautiful pictures in their storybooks. Encourage neat coloring within the lines.

Music

Listening to high-quality classical music is very important to the development of proper Catholic taste. When the students are engaged in quiet seat work, play classical music in the background. It is a scientifically-proven fact that classical music helps the concentration and learning process. Occasionally spend five quiet minutes just listening to a piece of music, and discuss the composer and where he lived. If music class is offered, encourage them to enjoy it!



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Sample Schedule for Kindergarten

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
8:00	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome
8:15	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar
8:30	Religion	Religion	Religion
9:00	Math	Math	Math
9:30	Snack	Snack	Snack
9:45-10:05	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:15	Poetry	Poetry	Poetry
10:30	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics
11:00	Literature	Literature	Literature
11:30	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:30	Singing	Singing	Singing
12:45	Literature	Literature	Literature
1:15	Rest Time	Rest Time	Rest Time
1:35	Science	Science	Science
2:00	Art	Music	P.E.
2:30	Recess/Review	Recess/Review	Recess/Review
3:00	Clean up/Prayers	Clean up/Prayers	Clean up/Prayers
3:15	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

The afternoon Recess/Review time can be used for a recess and then time to review something being learned, or for play-doh, puzzles, storytime, or anything the teacher may think beneficial.