

KidSparkz!

preschool curriculum



playing to learn,
loving to learn!

Welcome to the KidSparkz Basic Curriculum. The basic curriculum consists of:

- 140 daily themed lesson plans, written simply and clearly so that the busy teacher/caregiver can take in at a glance what needs to be done
- 75 fun games and activities to teach letters and their sounds
- 70 creative art techniques that can be used with any theme, and
- a collection of 400 popular children's songs and rhymes (all the words!!) to keep on hand

Preschool teachers, home daycare owners, and parents of preschoolers have found that the daily program is:

- **EASY** to understand, follow and use,
- **SUCCESSFUL** -- the children really enjoy the activities and games, and while they are having fun, they are learning
- **INEXPENSIVE** and simple to prepare the daily activities, since the program makes use of items normally found in a home or a school, and the list of extra supplies needed(included in the curriculum) is very short.
- **FLEXIBLE**, because although each daily integrated sequence of activities is self contained, and CAN be completed within 3 hours, it can be creatively extended for days, as long as interest in the topic lasts

- **IDEAL** for all levels of experience. For those just beginning, the activity ideas can be followed exactly to provide lots of fun and learning experiences for the children. For those with more experience, the ideas provide a springboard to spread the wings of creativity, and a reminder of songs, stories and activities they may have used successfully in the past.
- **AUTHENTIC**, because it is based on proven and longstanding educational theory and practice (Vygotsky, Piaget), and complementing the latest findings in early education (Project Approach, Theme-based)

In this sample of the curriculum you will find

- A statement of our philosophy
- A sample week of lesson plans
- Some songs from the song collection

The KidSparkz Basic Curriculum does not contain any printable activity pages. Curriculums with linked activity pages; separate collections of activity pages; a printable alphabet curriculum; plus many other resources for preschool teachers and home daycares can be found at www.kidsparkz.com

Our Philosophy...



Have you noticed how eager you are to learn more about the subjects that capture your interest? It's exactly the same with children—whenever something sparks their interest, they soak up everything they can find out about it, quickly, deeply and intensely, learning that will last forever. As teachers and caregivers, we carefully listen for their WOW! of discovery, and then get to work, setting the stage, creating the mood, subtly encouraging the children to follow their inspiration.

Books of all kinds are made available, writing and drawing materials, blocks and construction equipment, dramatic play accessories, music of the world and our hearts, and all kinds of math and science discovery materials. The children ask and measure, and listen, and think, and consider, and conclude, and perform, and disagree, and create, and take apart, and dance, and their imaginations fly. The spark is kindled, and the fires of learning are ignited.

The KidSparkz! Curriculum....

- is a developmentally appropriate program fulfilling the needs and appreciating the differences of individual children. Most activities can be enjoyed by children aged three to five.
- Provides a balance of child initiated and teacher-focused activities; active and quiet activities; and group and individual activities
- Combines aspects of the Project Approach, Reggio Emilia emergent curriculum, and theme-based curricula to create a hands-on, active program where children interact with each other and materials, co-operating and collaborating.
- Builds upon what the children already know and are able to do, to enable them to connect new concepts and skills
- Encourages parents to be partners in learning

The KidSparkz! Curriculum is flexible. Each daily module is integrated, so that each activity complements the others and builds layers of learning and discovery opportunities. The daily program can be used alone, sequentially, seasonally, or as an interest emerges amongst the children. Although building on an interest that has developed naturally during the day is ideal, every day in the KidSparkz! Curriculum begins with a SPARK activity guaranteed to ignite a sense of curiosity and a desire to explore further. Because the interest in the topic and the excitement of discovery will not take a particular path, more ideas for activities, songs and books are added to each unit, so that one day's projects may extend to a week, a month, or even longer.

The daily modules may be used to inspire, extend, illuminate, provoke and reinforce, but improvise and affirm with your own ideas and imagination to fully support the nascent joy of learning in your preschoolers.

In addition to a SPARK activity, each day presents suggestions for a Community Learning Circle, Creative Art, Music and Movement, Child-Centered Discovery, Games, and a Story. The Creative Art projects are all imagined and completed by the child, perhaps with inspiration from a song, or a story, or the art materials themselves. The Community Learning Circle presents ideas for conversation, language development and learning games. The daily calendar is not emphasized, since it is not yet relevant to the young child's experience of the world.

Letters and numbers appear throughout the Curriculum in games, art projects and stories, always with a relationship to the current activity so that the child can link the letter or number to a concrete concept. There are many activities that extend the concepts of literacy and numeracy, such as sequencing, classifying, and developing memory. Stories are chosen for their beautiful illustrations, excellent writing, and their relevance to the children's experience. Favorites can be read over and over again, stimulating conversations about the characters, the pictures, and what might happen next.

The intricate complexity of the people and cultures of our world is interwoven daily in the KidSparkz! Curriculum. The children are introduced to and surrounded by music, songs, stories, art methods and objects, customs and foods from various aspects of human experience and history. Relevant cultural holidays are joyfully celebrated, and every child and family can feel included and respected.

The KidSparkz! Curriculum can be used with any number of children, with minimal preparation, and requiring only basic and easily obtainable materials and supplies. It can be carried out in most environments, from a small Family Childcare home in one room, to a large center designed with defined interest areas. The activities appeal in different ways to children in the age range of 30 months to five years in mixed age grouping, and can also be successfully used in a same-age classroom, or for a parent creating a learning program for their preschooler at home.



Susan Portman

This sample consists of 5 days from the January curriculum.

THIRTEENTH SEQUENCE

Imagination Station/Bubbles and Rainbows

SPARK! LEARNING CIRCLE

Teacher dresses in a costume. Discuss how we use our imaginations. Everyone try to pretend to be someone else, then tell us who you are pretending to be.

DISCOVER

- Rainbow playdoh - use three colors. Blend together, or try to keep separate.
- Spread bagels with rainbow cream cheese. Divide tub of cream cheese into 3 parts, add different color food coloring to each. The children can mix it.
- Water play - making bubbles. Use Joy soap in water, then use whisk, eggbeater, fork etc to mix it.

CREATIVE ART

Make a rainbow with foam paint, or blow colorful bubbles in bowls with straws and make a print. Mix a little tempera (powdered works best here, but never mind) with a cup of water and a large squirt of Joy soap in an individual bowl. Child blows through straw into mix to create bubbles. Messy!! Only for those that can blow out, and NOT suck it up! Press paper over the mound of bubbles to make a bubble print.

MUSIC

Song:

I am a fine musician, I practice every day
And people come from miles around, just to hear me play -
My clarinet, my clarinet, I love to play my clarinet,

Woooooo (make tuneful clarinet sound). (drum, violin, guitar, piano etc)

STORY

[A Rainbow of My Own](#) by Don Freeman

GAME

Red light, green light. Use other colors, too. Children move forward when one color is held up, stop when they see the other.

FOURTEENTH SEQUENCE

Imagination Station/Action Heroes

SPARK! LEARNING CIRCLE

What is an action hero? Show Superman or Batman insignias (clipart). Introduce the expression "Here I come to save the day!" (Mighty Mouse). Let's be action heroes.

DISCOVER

- Match sets of aliens and spaceships one to one correspondence. Are these real or pretend?
- A construction with craft sticks and colored tape. Free form.

CREATIVE ART

Make an action hero belt with cardboard and foil. Tape an insignia on the "buckle".

MUSIC

Song:

Clap, clap, clap your hands, clap your hands together (repeat)

La la la la la la, la la la la lah (repeat).

(Wiggle hips, blink eyes, kick feet, etc)

STORY

[There's No Such Thing as a Dragon \(A Golden Classic\)](#) by Jack Kent

GAME

Picture story; teacher holds up a picture, child tells what they think is happening, did happen, will happen.

FIFTEENTH SEQUENCE

Imagination Station/Costumes

SPARK! LEARNING CIRCLE

Story starters - Teacher provides each child with an intriguing first sentence, children complete the story. E.g. When the frog saw that she couldn't jump back into the pond, she...

DISCOVER

- Colorful pasta and glitter in sensory box.
- Introduce a new costume to dress-up area.
- Make bead jewelry. String plastic beads, ring cereal, cut up straws, buttons etc.

CREATIVE ART

Create fantasy masks with feathers and sequins. Teacher cuts a "Mardi Gras" style mask from construction paper, children decorate magnificently!!

MUSIC

Song:

If all the raindrops were lemon drops and gumdrops, oh what a world that would be (see words previously)

STORY

How about a fairy tale book, full of period costumes? [The Random House Children's Treasury: Fairy Tales, Nursery Rhymes & Nonsense Verse](#) by Alice Mills

GAME

Who am I? Use mime and hats etc to create a character. Children guess who it is.

SIXTEENTH SEQUENCE

Imagination Station/Magic

SPARK! LEARNING CIRCLE

Play a magic wand game. Teacher uses a creative wand (paper towel tube with streamers?) to have children tell a story, sing a song, find an object. Create a magic word. (Hephzibah Zanzibar?)

DISCOVER

- Try some magic tricks
- Crayon rubbings - voila!! The pictures appear as if **MAGIC!**
- Watercolor wash over wax drawing - voila!! Yet again!!

CREATIVE ART

Make a magic wand - combine recyclables with stars, glitter and streamers.

MUSIC

Dancing with rainbow streamers.

Song: "Puff the Magic Dragon"

STORY

[Sam Katz On The Loose!](#) By Frank Radice. Cool kitty!

GAME:

Mystery picture - cover picture and show small piece at a time.

Children guess what it is.

SEVENTEENTH SEQUENCE

Imagination Station/Just Fun!

SPARK! LEARNING CIRCLE

Take a magic carpet ride to many lands. Everybody pile onto a smallish rug and hold on! Look over the side - what can you see?

DISCOVER

- Rainbow colors on the easel
- Shower of sequins - everyone stand on a sheet with a handful of sequins. Ready, set, SHOWER!!
- Create a picture from a doodle.

CREATIVE ART

Finger paint in vanilla pudding. Add food coloring.

MUSIC

Sing along with KidSparkz! - all our favorite songs and circle games.

STORY

[Sylvester and the Magic Pebble](#) by William Stieg. For older preschoolers, it provokes much thought.

GAME

Play the shell game with cups and pennies (or M and Ms). Count the pennies. Keep them.

This is a list of the Daily Integrated Sequences:

<p><u>UNIT ONE</u> <u>Personal Awareness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleased to Meet You • How Do You Do? • Who Are You? • Hands-On • Our Favorites • Our Five Senses • Sense of Smell • Sense of Hearing • Sense of Taste • Sense of Touch • Living Things • Healthy Food • Healthy Every day • Healthy Teeth 	<p><u>UNIT TWO</u> <i>Fall Fun</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighters • Friends and Caring • Leaves and Weather 1 • Leaves and Weather 2 • Leaves and Weather 3 • Leaves and Weather 4 • Leaves and Weather 5 • Apples, Squirrels and Nuts • Apples, Squirrels and Nuts • Apples, Squirrels and Nuts • Squirrels • Corn • Pumpkins and Spiders 1 • Pumpkins and Spiders 2 • Pumpkins and Spiders 3 • Pumpkins and Spiders 4 • Pumpkins and Spiders 5 	<p><u>UNIT THREE</u> <i>At Home</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families 1 • Families 2 • Families 3 • Families 4 • Babies • Babies 2 • Babies 3 • Homes 1 • Homes 2 • Homes 3 • Pets 1 • Pets 2 • Pets 3 • Thanksgiving 1 • Thanksgiving 2 • Thanksgiving 3
<p><u>UNIT FOUR: Lights in the Darkness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shines and Sparkles 1 • Shines and Sparkles 2 • Rudolf's Shiny Nose • Hanukkah • Gingerbread • Toys 1 • Toys 2 • Toys 3 • Christmas 1 • Christmas 2 • Christmas 3 	<p><u>UNIT FIVE</u> <i>Weather Changes, and Imagination Station</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy New Year 1 • Happy New Year 2 • Seasonal Changes 1 • Seasonal Changes 2 • Rain • Snow 1 • Snow 2 • Animals in Winter 1 • Animals in Winter 2 • Warmth and Coziness • Martin Luther King Day • Winnie the Pooh Day • Imagination Station: Bubbles and Rainbows • Imagination Station: Action Heroes • Imagination Station: Costumes • Imagination Station: Magic • Imagination Station: Just for Fun 	<p><u>UNIT SIX</u> <i>Friends and Valentines/Things That Go</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundhog Day • Friends and Valentines • Friends and Valentines • Friends and Valentines • Friends and Valentines • Friends and Valentines • Friends and Valentines • Chinese New Year • Chinese New Year • Things That Go: Overview • Things That Go on the Road • Things That Go: Trains • Things That Go on the Water • Things That Go in the Air

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things That Go in Space 1 • Things That Go in Space 2
<p><u>UNIT SEVEN: Science Discovery/Forest Animals/Spring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Discovery: Wind and Air 1 • Science Discovery: Wind and Air 2 • Science Discovery: Water • Science Discovery: Tools and Machines • Science Discovery: Tools and Machines • Science Discovery: Magnets • St. Patrick's Day 1 • St. Patrick's Day 2 • Forest Animals 1 • Forest Animals 2 • Forest Animals 3 • Forest Animals 4 • Arrival of Spring 1 • Arrival of Spring 2 • Arrival of Spring 3 • Arrival of Spring 4 	<p><u>UNIT EIGHT Animals and Insects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frogs • Snakes • Insects • Insects • Insects: Butterflies and Moths • Insects: Bees • Insects: Ladybugs • Farms • Farms • Dairy Farms and Cows • Chickens • More Farms • Earth Day: Appreciating Our Planet • Arbor Day, Trees 	<p><u>UNIT NINE Oceans and Dinosaurs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Day • Cinco de Mayo • Mothers' Day • Dinosaurs 1 • Dinosaurs 2 • Dinosaurs 3 • Dinosaurs 4 • Dinosaurs 5 • Oceans 1 • Oceans 2 • Oceans 3 • Oceans 4 • Oceans 5 • Strawberries • Watermelons

Songs and Rhymes for Preschool

Over 400 familiar songs and rhymes are categorized according to theme or topic. The themes are... All About Me... Dinosaurs... Birds... Animals... Ocean... Forest Animals... Insects... Circle Time... Community... Family... Food... Holidays... Seasons... Space... Teddies... and Traditional Songs.

All About Me

Everybody do this, do this, do this,
(leader demonstrates a body movement)
Everybody do this, just like me (everyone copies it)
Everybody do this, do this, do this,
Everybody do this, just like me.

Higgledy, piggeldy, bumblebee, who can say their name for me?
(child says name)
Let's all say it (name)
Let's clap and say it (name)
Let's whisper it (name)

I have ten little fingers and they all belong to me.
I can make them do things, would you like to see?
I can shut them up tight, or open them wide,
I can put them together, or make them all hide,
I can make them jump high, I can make them jump low,
I can fold them up quietly, and hold them just so.

Wiggle your fingers, waggle your fingers,
Shake your fingers so,
Stretch right out to touch a friend,
And they'll be glad to know -
YOU!!

A wiggly jiggly loose tooth
I have a loose tooth

A-hanging by a thread.
So I pulled my loose tooth
My wiggly jiggly loose tooth
Put it beneath my pillow
And then I went to bed.
The fairy took my loose tooth
My wiggly jiggly loose tooth
And now I have a nickel
And a hole inside my head.

(Tune: Where is Thumbkin?)
I am special, I am special, look at me and you'll see
Someone very special, very very special,
That is me. YES IT'S ME!!

I wiggle my fingers I wiggle my toes
I wiggle my shoulders, I wiggle my nose.
Now the wiggles are out of me,
And I'm just as still as I can be.

Here are my fingers and here are my toes
Here are my ears and here is my nose.
Here are my eyes that open wide,

Here is my mouth with my white teeth inside.
Here is my tongue that helps me speak,
Here are my shoulders and here are my cheeks
Here are my hands that help me to play,
And here are my feet that go walking each day.

(Tune: 3 Blind Mice)
All by myself, all by myself.
See what I can do, see what I can do.
I can brush my teeth and my hair so neat
I can put my socks and shoes on my feet,
I can get my napkin and my snack to eat,
All by myself.