

Social & Emotional Learning

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. SEL is more than just a program or lesson. It is about how teaching and learning happens, as well as what you teach and where you learn. There are a variety of approaches used to teach SEL including:

- Free-standing lessons designed to enhance students' social and emotional competence explicitly.
- Teaching practices such as cooperative learning and project-based learning, which promote SEL.
- Integration of SEL and academic curriculum such as language arts, math, social studies, or health.
- Organizational strategies that promote SEL as a schoolwide initiative that creates a climate and culture conducive to learning.

At the elementary level, the Responsive Classroom Approach is used to promote well-designed practices intended to create safe, joyful, and engaging classroom and school communities. The emphasis is on helping students develop their academic, social, and emotional skills in a learning environment that is developmentally responsive to their strengths and needs.

Students develop their SEL skills across five competencies:

- Self Awareness
- Self Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision Making

Spanish Language & Culture

- Introduce oneself and greet others
- Express basic likes and dislikes
- Ask basic questions using practiced phrases
- Respond to yes/no, either/or questions
- Identify colors
- State numbers 1-10
- Identify animals and describe what they do (i.e.: bird flies, fish swims, dog runs)
- Recognize places around town (i.e.: home, post office, library, school)
- Indicate location (i.e.: here vs. there)
- Identify and describe the elements of a garden
- Begin to demonstrate awareness, curiosity and appreciation of different cultures

Ways to Help Your Child

- Read to your child daily
- Develop good nutritional, rest, and safety habits
- Work with the school to develop good study skills and self-discipline
- Attend individual conferences and school events
- Plan family experiences which support topics studied at school

NEEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS



KINDERGARTEN

CURRICULUM SUMMARY

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Mathematics

- Know number names and the count sequence
- Count to tell the number of objects
- Compare numbers
- Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understanding subtraction as taking apart and taking from
- Work with numbers 11-19 to gain foundations for place value
- Describe and compare measurable attributes
- Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category
- Identify and describe shapes (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres)
- Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes



Science

Students explore the big ideas of life, physical, and earth science through an inquiry-based, hands on approach. Students explore science through integrated centers. There are four units throughout the year:

- Properties in Our Community (Physical Science)
- Plants and Animals (Life Science)
- Construction (Physical Science)
- Our Earth (Earth Science)

Live animals, outdoor field trips and special programs provided by the Science Center serve to enhance the hands-on experience.

Social Studies

Students engage in inquiry-based social studies as they study geography and apply thinking skills (including comparing/contrasting, observing, classifying, etc.) to the following units:

- Self Awareness/Uniqueness
- Rules and Routines
- Family and Community
- Recognize Similarities and Differences Among Various Cultures of the American People



Reading

- Show an interest in books
- Participate in book discussion with partners, small groups, and whole class
- Use comprehension strategies when listening to books read aloud or when reading independently
- Begin to understand different genres
- Read pictures using story language
- Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts of print
- Begin to identify high frequency words
- Identify letters by name and sound when seen in upper and lower case
- Rhyme, blend, and segment sounds heard in words

Writing

Use stages of the writing process including drafting and publishing

- Use oral storytelling to plan writing
- Use pictures to tell a story
- Begin to label pictures and write simple stories
- Begin to explore ending punctuation
- Use phonetic spelling
- Spell identified high frequency words
- Begin to write with voice
- Begin to add sentences to stories
- Experiment with writing in different genres and for different purposes

Handwriting

- Form upper and lowercase letters

Art

- Engage in exploration and play with materials
- Create art that tells a story about a life experience
- Recognize that people represent their experiences and traditions through artistic expression
- Collaborate in art making and sharing materials
- Connect with art in other settings
- Solve artistic problems and think critically and creatively
- Use materials safely

Music

- Demonstrate melodic direction
- Recognize the difference between a speaking and singing voice
- Use Echo and simple songs to develop singing skills
- Recognize and move to a steady beat
- Express music through movement
- Song Tales-experiencing stories through music

Physical Education

- Understand the concepts of personal & general space
- Demonstrate skills of turning, stretching, curling, and rolling sideways
- Understand the directions up/down and forward/backward
- Demonstrate relationships with objects and people (over/under, on/off, around)
- Understand and travel in 3 different pathways (straight, curved, zigzag)
- Follow directions in group settings
- Shares equipment and space with others

Library & Digital Learning

- Identify areas of media center
- Locate picture books and fiction areas
- Locate the nonfiction section and recognize it is organized by topic
- Demonstrate active listening skills and listen to literature for pleasure and information
- Use tools in painting/drawing programs or apps
- Demonstrate basic routines, like the safe handling of devices, when using technology
- Program a robot to move among various objects
- Work cooperatively with others and share resources
- Learn cyberbullying vocabulary