



DAYBREAK
ACADEMY

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, what to do, and how to be, I learned in Kindergarten. Wisdom did not lie at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the Kindergarten classroom.

~ Robert Fulghum

Why choose Daybreak Academy for Kindergarten?

- ✓ A full day of learning and fun.
- ✓ Smaller class size with a certified teacher and a teacher aide for increased academic opportunities for all students.
(Area schools can have up to 30 kindergarten students with 1 teacher. Our student teacher ratios are less than half that!)
- ✓ Organic/all natural healthy snacks and lunches every day.
- ✓ Learning that extends beyond the classroom with specialists that teach: Visual Arts, Martial Arts, Creative Literature, Mandarin Chinese, Gymnastics, Science, Music, Creative Tech & Theater Arts.
- ✓ Individual piano lessons each week.
- ✓ Quality extended care available before *and* after school.
- ✓ Caring, friendly and helpful staff.



What is the Purpose of Kindergarten?

Ideally, your child's kindergarten experience will be a smooth, enriching introduction to school for your child, since it sets the stage for the rest of his or her education. While no program is perfect, some *are* better than others. What sets them apart and how you can get the best possible start for your child — no matter what your options are?

In selecting the right Kindergarten program for your child, first consider the goal of a good kindergarten program. *Why do children attend Kindergarten? What is the purpose of Kindergarten?*

First and foremost, Kindergarten provides your child with an opportunity to learn and practice the essential social, emotional, problem-solving, and study skills that he will use throughout his schooling and entire lifetime of achievement and personal development.

- The development of self-esteem is one of the important goals of kindergarten. This is the process of helping your child feel good about who she is and confident in her ability to tackle the challenges of learning. Low student/teacher ratios at Daybreak Academy make it easier for students to get the help they need if they don't quite understand something. Rather than being left behind and confused (not great things for self esteem), each child is worked with in small groups and individually.
- Kindergarten teaches cooperation: the ability to work, learn, and get along with others. A year in kindergarten provides your child with the opportunity to learn patience, as well as the ability to take turns, share, and listen to others — all skills that he will use throughout his school years. At Daybreak Academy, however, the kids don't just learn to read together—they work as a team to create student produced stop-motion animation films, write and act in plays, and play music as an ensemble. Imagine what that kind of social & cooperative skills that can teach. Daybreak Academy takes things to a whole new level for children that are bright and ambitious.
- Most children are naturally curious, but some do not know how to focus or use this curiosity productively. Kindergarten is a time for sparking and directing your child's curiosity and natural love of learning. Many local kindergarten programs are for such a short period of the day that a teacher can feel rushed and stressed just trying to get in the basics, let alone anything creative and/or advanced. At the Academy there is time and opportunity to cover all the basics and also move into more advanced learning and enrichment opportunities. Children have more time and opportunity to ask questions to satisfy and stimulate their natural intellect and curiosity. Imagine what going to a school where the entire program caters to bright and gifted children could do for your child? Every child is precious and unique, but not every program has the time, opportunity, and enrichment resources to help each child reach his or her full potential. That is the Daybreak Academy difference.



What Does the *Ideal* Kindergarten Program Look Like?



Ask any number of educators and parents, and you will get many different descriptions of the ideal kindergarten. But there are certain basic agreements among educators as to what makes a good program. At a bare minimum it should:

- **Expand your child's ability to learn about (and from) the world, to organize information, and to**

solve problems. This increases his feelings of self-worth and confidence, his ability to work with others, and his interest in challenging tasks.

- **Provide a combination of formal (teacher-initiated) and informal (child-initiated) activities.** Investigations and projects allow your child to work both on her own and in small groups.
- **Keep large group activities that require sitting and listening to a minimum.** Instead, most activities feature play-based, hands-on learning in small groups. As the year progresses, large group activities become a bit longer in preparation for 1st grade.
- **Foster a love of books, reading, and writing.** There are books, words, and kids' own writing all over the classroom.

When looking at programs, keep these elements in mind — as well as the specific needs of your child and family. Not every program is perfect for every child. Some children thrive in a program with more disciplined direction, others with a more free-flowing structure. At Daybreak Academy we strive to strike the ideal balance between having a well-structured classroom with smart procedure and policy, while still allowing time and opportunity for students to ask questions, utilize self-directed learning, and explore their environment.

If you aren't sure which program is best for you, it may be helpful to talk to your child's former preschool teacher about what kind of environment he or she would recommend based on your child's personality and academic readiness. You may want to visit a few schools, and talk to the principal or a kindergarten teacher before deciding what programs seems best for your child. But above all, listen to your own parent's intuition. No one knows your precious student better than you. If after meeting with the teacher and learning more about the program, you feel comfortable and peaceful about where your child should attend Kindergarten; that is a very good sign indeed!

What Core Academics Will Your Child Learn in Kindergarten at Daybreak Academy?

Kindergarten students learn a lot as they prepare for 1st grade. We incorporate the core curriculum standards for the State of Utah, and then we go above and beyond. It's a very important year to build a solid foundation for future learning and academic success. Here are just a few of the basic academic concepts & skills that students will be learning this year. At Daybreak Academy we go beyond the "listen and learn" method of teaching. We help students *experience* new concepts in an intuitive, hands-on way that helps instill confidence and true mastery of each new skill.

Math

Using visual props like buttons, cubes, and 3D shapes, your kindergartner will learn the concepts of ordinal numbers, basic addition and subtraction. Your child will learn how to recognize patterns and how to sort using different characteristics. By the end of the kindergarten year, your child will be able to name the components of a calendar, as well as know how they build upon one another (days make weeks, weeks make months, etc.). Your student will learn to recognize and count to numbers up to 100+.

Reading

Kindergarten is a year of exciting discovery in reading and literacy. Your child will learn to recognize and comprehend simple words in print. Her studies will include letter-sound correspondence, phonemic awareness, sight word recognition, rhyming and other useful literacy skills. Before the end of the year, most of our kindergartners will be reading simple, age-appropriate books. Reading is a big & fun part of our day-to-day classroom learning. Students quickly learn to enjoy the challenge and rewards of learning how to read and mastering new literacy skills.

Writing

Your child will learn to use writing for a variety of useful and practical purposes as part of her kindergarten education. She'll master how to print her own name correctly (if she can't already) using a capital letter at the beginning and lowercase letters for the rest. She'll learn to write numerals from 1 to 20+ and other useful words. Most importantly, she'll be working on developing her fine motors skills as she learns how to write the alphabet in both capital and lowercase letters.

Science

Kindergarten science explores topics that are meaningful and interesting to students and can be applied to everyday life. Your child will learn about good health habits, including nutrition and an introduction to dental hygiene. He will spend time learning the process of inquiry as he learns about the five senses. This year he works on observation and data recording as the class collects weather information for the daily calendar and keeps track of how many days a certain type of weather occurs. He will also discover plant life with a hands-on unit about seeds and plant growth as they harvest from the school's organic gardens in autumn and then plan & plant their own organic seeds and seedlings in the spring. In addition to science learning in the classroom, we also have a special weekly hands-on science experiment/enrichment lesson with our own energetic Mr. Bryan where students always have a blast (that is an educational AND safe "blast", of course)!

Social Studies

Our kindergarten social studies follow your child's developmental progress. At the beginning of the year, students focus on "me", exploring extended families and sharing information about themselves with the class. As the year goes on, the focus broadens to look at different types of cultures and community workers. Your child will gain a better understanding of the meaning behind holidays and celebrations. The social studies curriculum is also intended to give children the basis for interacting with and understanding people of other cultures, as well as a foundation for later studies in history and geography. Students learn about citizenship and how to be a good citizen, with a focus on our core school rules of "Respect for Self & Others".

We have really great families that attend the Academy. Daybreak Academy families tend to be active participants in their child's learning process. Your child will attend school with a wonderfully diverse group of bright students. It is a delightful thing to know that your child's classmates come from families that share your values and priorities in the classroom: such as a challenging but fun learning environment, creative expression, and joyful achievement. Let us know if you have any questions. You can email director@daybreakacademy.com or stop by the front desk. Thank you!