

Preschool Lingo 101

Written by Kirsten Cornell

Important terms and programs to understand when choosing a preschool



Science center at Kids 'R' Kids



Crafts at Katy's Early Childhood Enrichment Center

Montessori

Bank Street

Cooperative

High Scope

It is no secret that one of the top reasons families come to Katy is because of the high standard of academic excellence. Last year, Katy ISD students achieved a performance rating of 90% for the state. Katy preschools know that this level of learning starts at an early age and their programs are the foundation for educational success.

“Our teachers and curriculum team incorporate the standards and expectations of the Katy ISD kindergarten curriculum into our pre-kindergarten lesson plans,” explains Asli Remlinger, owner of The Goddard School of Katy. “This provides a very strong foundation for our individualized curriculum, which is tailored for each student.”

What is Bridge to Kindergarten?

Several academies incorporate an accredited program entitled “Bridge to Kindergarten.” Each a little different and adapted to the facility’s philosophy, they help provide a strategy for preparing students to enter kindergarten ideally at, or above, grade level.

“We put our most educated teachers, often certified, with several years worth of education and experience in our bridge to kindergarten and private kindergarten classes,” states Sania Jamil, owner of Kids ‘R’ Kids Learning Academy of Katy. “We also incorporate the Kids ‘R’ Kids curriculum as well as Big Day curriculum through Texas School Ready. These curriculums focus on core subjects such as mathematics and literacy, and are used on a daily basis.”



Reading circle at
Foundations Academy

Accredited

Play-based

Certifications

Faith-based

For those that wish to give their students some extra learning time, British Private Prep School's program is offered for students who are unable to start kindergarten due to birthdate, or for students whose parents feel they need an additional year of growth and development before entering kindergarten.

What are Enrichment Programs?

Enrichment programs can vary from anything such as language and music programs, to athletic programs and more. It's important for a parent to know the programs each prospective preschool offers to make sure they are a good fit for your child. Students at British Private Prep School, for example, can participate in Spanish, dance, gymnastics, and sports. "Our curriculum is written in-house

and incorporates all styles of learning - kinesthetic, visual, auditory, and play-based activities - to ensure that students are able to learn and grow," adds owner Cheryl Sage.

Children gain exposure to a second language at an early age at the Spanish Learning Castle. "We incorporate group activities that reinforce the fun of learning a second language, in particular Spanish, in songs, movements, and games," says Aniuska Marin, owner and school director. "The benefits are that it stimulates the toddlers in many areas including communication with others, learning about his or her surroundings, social and emotional growth, body awareness, and individual talent development."

Most of the enrichment programs at The Goddard School also focus on 21st century skills such as collaboration,

communication, creativity, and critical thinking. “We offer Spanish, yoga, music, world cultures, art, technology, robotics, and sports,” Remlinger says.

What is the Preschool’s Curriculum?

Parents will want to inquire about teacher certification and classroom curriculum. How much of the day is playtime versus learning? Will they be able to have time outdoors? Are their lesson plans laid out in advance? Even with the most highly-skilled educators, any situation involving small children for long periods of time will involve upsets and there will be days when behavior is not on-point. Parents will want to inquire as to how this is handled in the classroom and what measures are taken. Parents may also want to request a copy of the curriculum as well as a weekly classroom schedule to see if it will fit their child’s needs.

“Our play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum keeps children intrigued and engaged from the moment they arrive at school until the end of the day,” says Remlinger. “Our directors create a work environment designed to promote health and safety as well as opportunities for our team members to go above and beyond to work with the parents and meet the individual needs of each child.”

How Do They Foster a Love for Learning?

The key component for any preschool, however, is developing lifelong learners. These preschools are setting the stage at an early age for academic and social success. The Goddard School prides themselves on promoting a positive culture where each child feels loved and is reinforced with positive accolades. “Fostering each child’s self-esteem is very important, and we design various fun activities around recognizing children’s individual gifts and personalities,” adds Remlinger.

Sage says their teachers and staff are motivated and have a true passion for children and their learning. “Our students feel this love and are encouraged by it. They are eager to come to school and hesitant to leave at the end of the day.” **KM**




KIRSTEN CORNELL is a lead associate editor at Katy Magazine. She is already considering evaluating preschool options for her nephew Connor, due April 2016.

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Be Ambitious

Important Preschool Terms to Know

ACCREDITED

When a preschool has met the standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

BANK STREET

Emphasizes the importance of a large variety of open-ended materials in the classroom and the teacher is the facilitator of learning.

CERTIFICATIONS

The courses in a preschool teacher certificate program focus on both child development and general education.

CHILD-LED

A less structured program, child-led preschools wait for each child to initiate or ask for new activities and experiences, fostering individualized learning rather than group experiences.

COOPERATIVE

A program where parents assist in running the preschool. Parents will be expected to be an integral part of participating in the school and even in the classroom.

FAITH-BASED

Programs that are run through faith organizations such as churches or synagogues.

HIGH SCOPE

Children learn actively by having hands-on experiences with their surroundings, and learning is supported through consistent daily routines and well-organized classrooms.

MIXED-AGE GROUPINGS

The practice of educating children in mixed-age groups in early childhood education.

MONTESSORI

Emphasizes nature, creativity, and hands-on learning with gentle guidance provided by the teachers.

PLAY-BASED

Incorporating physically active play allows children to test and develop all types of motor skills.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN OR PRE-K

A classroom-based preschool program for children below the age of 5.

REGGIO EMILIA

Encourages exploration and focuses on the importance of community and self-expression.

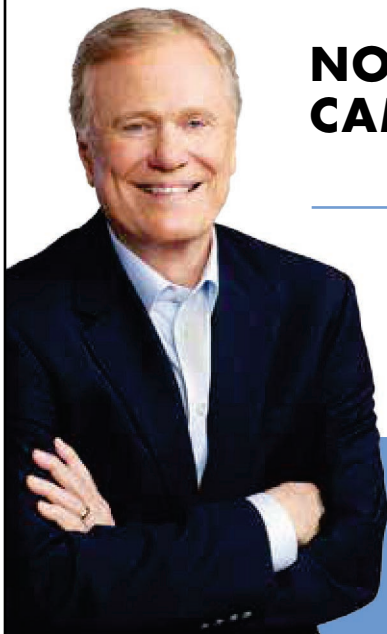
TEACHER-LED

A more structured program, the class activities are implemented by the teachers in the setting.

WALDORF

A program that focuses on nurturing a child's spirit, soul, and body through the child's own interests.

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bridgepointbible.org
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British International School of Houston

Westgreen Blvd. & Franz Rd.
713-290-9025
bishouston.org
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British Private Prep Schools

4025 S. Mason Rd.
281-828-2000

5935 Cinco Terrace Dr.
281-394-7737

28031 S. Firethorne Dr.
281-394-5889
britishprivateprepschool.com
See ad on page 160

Centerra Ranch Montessori School

23144 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
281-693-2767
centerraranchmontessori.com
See ad on page 133

Discovery Schoolhouse

4900 Falcon Landing Blvd.
281-698-7234
discovery-schoolhouse.com
See ad on page 145

Faith West Academy

2225 Porter Rd.
281-391-5683
faithwest.org
See ad on page 39

Foundations Academy

20817 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-599-1200
foundations-academy.com
See ad on page 127

The Goddard School

24025 Cinco Village Center Blvd.
281-392-1912

5220 Ranch Point Dr.
281-392-1200
goddardschool.com
See ad on page 85

Katy Learning Center Inc.

24811 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-391-6401
katylearningcenter.com
See ad on page 155

Katy's Early Childhood Enrichment Center

1407 W. Grand Pkwy. S.
281-693-1999
katyecec.com
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Kids 'R' Kids

24007 Franz Rd.
281-347-5444
krkfranzroad.com

21955 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-828-2273
krkcincorancheast.com

25950 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
281-392-1370
krkcincoranch.com

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cincoranchkrk.com

4515 FM 1463
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krkkaty.com
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Primrose Schools

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281-828-1600
primroseschools.com/schools/kelliwood

21480 Park Row Blvd.
281-492-7400
primroseschools.com/schools/north-mason-creek

26900 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
281-347-1212
primroseschools.com/schools/west-cinco-ranch
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Safari Kids Learning Center

24936 Katy Ranch Rd.
832-583-9700
safarikidslearningcenter.com
See ad on page 41

Second Baptist Church

(West Preschool Ministry)
19449 Katy Fwy.
713-365-3446
second.org
See ad on page 140

Spanish Learning Castle

5024 E. 5th St.
832-437-6479
spanishlearningcastle.com
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