

Curriculum Enhancements

Class Descriptions

Daniel Island Academy's **Early Literacy Initiative** lead to the development of specially-designed Curriculum Enhancements. The school employs professionals who are early childhood educators and leaders in their respective fields of music, foreign language, and literacy to teach the following classes:

Music Class is a creative extension of the daily learning environment. Children learn classroom lessons in many ways and music is a proven medium through which they acquire early math and reading skills.

Lessons are built around the classroom's curriculum and skill progress of each class. A variety of instruments and props are used to enhance the creative environment. Music class lessons include:

- Musical concepts of rhythm, tempo, dynamics, and patterns
- Hands-on experience with a variety of instruments and props
- Music from new and familiar cultures and genres
- Creative movement

Miss Becky's Literacy Adventure is taught weekly in our Full Day classrooms, including our youngest pre-toddler rooms, by the school's traveling Librarian. Each session is interwoven with the classroom's lesson plan, and includes story time, music and movement, and dramatic play.

Literacy Adventure lessons are **multisensory, including visual, auditory, and kinesthetic components.** Music and movement are proven paths to learning and understanding books and stories.

www.danielislandacademy.com

Spanish For Toddlers is an introductory course focused on exposing children to a new language. The course curriculum includes everyday greetings, colors, numbers, songs, celebrations, and stories in Spanish. Intro to Spanish is included for full day Older 2s and three-year-old students.

Expresate "Express Yourself" is a Spanish language course based on a total immersion model held twice weekly with a native Spanish speaker. *Expresate* is included in Full Day four-year-old and Kindergarten programs, and as a supplemental class for Half Day four-year-old and three-year-old programs.

Handwriting Without Tears (HWT) is an award-winning Get Set for School™ Pre-K program that uses lively music and playful activities to help young children build a solid foundation for school success. The curriculum is full of developmentally appropriate activities that teach children about letters, body awareness, numbers, sequencing, and sharing in a fun, engaging, and informal manner.

Children who experience Early Literacy programs enter elementary school with an advanced level of reading skills, a leading indicator in overall school performance.

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Daniel Island Academy

Preschool and Kindergarten programs for children ages 1-6



NAEYC Accreditation and Curriculum

The Creative Curriculum® Curriculum Enhancements Reference Point®



Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the mark of excellence in early childhood education, health and safety.

What are NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards?

NAEYC stands for the **National Association for the Education of Young Children**, which sets the most rigorous standards in early childhood education, health, and safety. **Daniel Island Academy** has achieved and maintained NAEYC accreditation since its opening in 2004.



Ten Standards of NAEYC Accreditation

- Promote **positive relationships** for all children and adults
- A **curriculum** that fosters all areas of child development: **cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social**
- Developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate **effective teaching**
- **Ongoing assessments** of a child's learning and development
- Promote the **nutrition and health** of children and protect children and staff from illness and injury
- **Teaching staff** that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment required
- **Collaborative relationships** with each child's family
- **Relationships** with and use of resources in the **community** to achieve program goals
- **Safe and healthy** physical environment
- Strong personnel, fiscal, and program **management policies**

www.NAEYC.ORG

Why is Curriculum Important to Overall School Quality?

The content and implementation of an early childhood curriculum set the tone for the entire school. Its use by knowledgeable and professional teachers is based on the following questions:

- What do children need to learn?
- How will children learn best?
- How do I help children build on what they know and what they can do?

Daniel Island Academy selected **The Creative Curriculum®**, a NAEYC approved curriculum of excellence, due to its **child-centered** approach to learning. It is also a **play-based** curriculum in which classroom environment and center activities are key components in the learning process.

Our curriculum includes a balanced schedule of planned activities and free choice; quiet time and physical play; individual attention and group activities. Most important, we ensure a high level of one-on-one interaction between teacher and child.

“At Daniel Island Academy we understand that children learn in their own unique way. When you walk our halls you will see children thriving in a vibrant, loving environment, and know that this is no ordinary preschool.”

Kerry Nowosielski
School Director

How is My Child's Progress Followed?

Daniel Island Academy's leadership team is comprised of a **School Director, Curriculum Specialist, and Reference Point Coordinator**. Their collaborative efforts ensure that each child's progress is observed, reported, and communicated to parents.



Reference Point was created by Daniel Island Academy to

provide a **developmental** tracking system of screening and observation tools to monitor your child's **cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional** milestones.

A **confidential** portfolio is managed by an on-staff professional and includes

- Fall Readiness Checks and Review
- Fall Curriculum Conference
- Spring Curriculum Conference
- Open Family Conferences, if needed
- Individualized Programs & Specialized Intervention, if needed

CreativeCurriculum.net

An extension of **The Creative Curriculum®** is **CreativeCurriculum.net**, a web-based program that integrates ongoing assessment of children's development with reporting, program planning, and parent communication tools, including, observation notes, examples of children's work, photographs, lesson plans, progress reports, classroom newsletters, and a teacher-to-parent email link.

Reference Point provides a **year-to-year flow** of information on each child's progress as they transition to the next classroom. The child's confidential portfolio is given to his or her parents upon completing their education at Daniel Island Academy.

Curriculum Enhancements

Music, reading, and creative play are regular activities of **The Creative Curriculum®** that take place daily in all classrooms. In addition, Curriculum Enhancements of specially-designed classes in music, literacy, and foreign language are taught by professional educators employed by the school to promote the development of early literacy and reading skills in children.

Curriculum Enhancements are included in Full Day programs and available as supplemental programs for Half Day and Mother's Morning Out students. The following classes are currently offered:

- Music Class
- Miss Becky's Literacy Adventure
- Spanish for Toddlers
- Expresate (Spanish Immersion)
- Handwriting Without Tears®

Full class descriptions on back of booklet

Enrichment Programs

Supplemental Enrichment Programs, such as dance, science, music, art, and tumbling are offered outside of the regular classroom. These programs encourage children to explore new interests and develop new skills.

Your child's teacher and school staff are available to help plan an Enrichment Program schedule that will benefit your child's continued development and interests.

See Enrichment Brochure for class schedule