



Daniel Island Academy

Preschool and Kindergarten programs for children ages 1-6



Kindergarten Program

The Sea Turtles



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

Preparing Your Child for Elementary School and Beyond

The Kindergarten Program at Daniel Island Academy is built upon three standards:

- A child-centered curriculum that educates the 'whole child' with attention to the intellectual, physical, and social/emotional development of each child
- An environment rich in direct experiences that are meaningful to the child upon which knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes toward schooling are achieved
- One-on-one instruction with a low child-to-teacher ratio, coupled with a small class size

“Our goal is to respond to the needs of children as developing, thinking individuals by focusing on the process of learning.”

Kerry Nowosielski
School Director

Play Based Learning

Our view is that play is fundamental to children's learning, growth, and development, enabling them to develop and clarify concepts, roles, and ideas by testing and evaluating them through the use of open-ended materials and role-enactment. Play further enables children to develop fine and gross motor skills, to learn to share with others, to learn to see others' points of view, and to be in control of their thoughts and feelings.

Fun Fact Each classroom is named for a sea creature. Our Kindergarten Class is designated as *The Sea Turtles*, with a sea turtle also featured in our school logo.

Our Kindergarten Curriculum

Our curriculum was developed through extensive study of programs of excellence specially designed for Kindergarten students. In addition to meeting the *South Carolina Academic Standards* for mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies for Kindergarten, our curriculum includes foreign language, music, handwriting, literacy, and creative arts components, as follows:

Everyday Mathematics is a research-based PreK-6 curriculum that builds mathematical knowledge from the basics to higher-order thinking and critical problem solving. Children gain strong math skills through hands-on activities instead of relying on worksheets and rote memorization.

Lucy Calkins' Writers Workshop for Kindergarten provides fun and easy to follow lessons for children to learn early writing skills.

Rigby-Literacy By Design materials are utilized to teach vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, phonemic awareness, and phoneme segmentation.

Expresate' (Spanish) is taught by a native speaking Spanish teacher in a total immersion format in conjunction with normal school activities, such as play, stories, songs, games, and arts & crafts. Two 45-minute sessions are held weekly.

Handwriting Without Tears (HWT) is an award-winning Get Set for School™ program that uses music and playful activities to help young children learn about letters, numbers, and sequencing in a fun, engaging manner.

Miss Wendy's 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.

Miss Becky's Literacy Adventure is taught weekly by the school's Librarian. Each session is interwoven with the classroom's lesson plan, and includes storytime, music and movement, and dramatic play for learning and understanding books and stories.

Science and Social Studies

Science and social studies are taught through experience and exploration in and outside of the classroom.

Field Trips are an important part of our science and social studies curriculum to enhance the learning experience, teach children about the world around them, and provide for stimulating classroom discussions. Recent excursions have included: Daniel Island Fire Station, Palmetto Park, Discovery Ice Cream, Etiwan Park, Center Park, and a performance of *Ferdinand the Bull* at the Sotfile in Historic Charleston.

"Children learn best through experience. When studying insects, we explore one of the many island parks or ponds to learn firsthand about insect habitats and the many tiny creatures found there – followed by a discussion with a local Entomologist."

Dale Hawkins
Kindergarten Lead Teacher

Nutrition

We teach children the importance of building strong minds and bodies through proper nutrition. This is a central component of every classroom throughout the school. Our full time chef prepares all snacks and lunches to the highest nutrition standard and assists teachers with classroom cooking projects.

Gardens - Each class plants and maintains their own garden throughout the year with harvested produce prepared for a special treat or used in cooking projects.

Physical Education

The progression of gross and fine motor skills is a critical part of each child's development. The school's playground and multi-purpose room are equipped to provide a fun and challenging environment for all skill levels.

Daily Schedule

Our Kindergarten instructional day is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Before and after school care is included at no additional cost, limited to a maximum of 10 hours daily. Two snacks daily and lunch are included in tuition cost.

Before School Care

6:30 - 8:00 Breakfast, Multipurpose Room

Regular Class Schedule*

8:10 - 9:10 Guided reading/literacy jobs
9:10 - 9:30 Calendar, morning news at the SmartBoard®
9:30 - 9:55 Math
9:55 - 10:25 Fluency, vocabulary, phonics and comprehension
10:35 - 11:05 Writer's workshop
11:05 - 11:30 Science, Social Studies
11:30 - 12:00 Recess
12:00 - 12:30 Lunch
12:30 - 1:30 Nap or Rest and Relaxation
1:30 - 2:30 Enhanced Curriculum of Art, Music, PE, Library, Spanish
2:30 - 3:30 Application Centers

After School Care

3:30 - 4:00 Recess
4:00 - 5:30 Self Selected Activities, Music and Movement
5:30 - 6:00 Table Activities

**Morning and Afternoon snacks are included as essential nutrition for children to maintain a higher energy level and focus in the classroom.*

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 their 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.

Please request an Enrichment Brochure for a current class schedule or visit our website to download a copy.

School Leadership

Our 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.

Kindergarten

Lead Teacher Dale Hawkins has over 25 years of experience in teaching kindergarten students, including the use of technology which has emerged as an important tool to enhance learning in the classroom.

"Technology in the form of SmartBoards®, computers, and the internet can be used effectively to engage young children in imaginative and creative ways. But, it should not take the place of developing a strong teacher-child relationship, which needs side-by-side instruction, guidance and observation to teach the whole child."

Dale Hawkins
Lead Teacher

Dale received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts from West Virginia University.

Classroom Size

Our Kindergarten Program offers a **10:1 child-to-teacher ratio** with an overall classroom enrollment limited to 18 students. This supports our child-centered curriculum and high standard for teacher interaction with each child. A limit on classroom enrollment is essential to creating a productive environment for all students, so that more time is spent on instruction and positive interaction.

We are an allergy-safe facility!

Technology in the Classroom

Technology is an important tool used in today's classroom to aid with instruction. Computers are often used in standardized testing, so it is important to ensure that each child is knowledgeable in using computer-based programs.

Our classroom is equipped with a SmartBoard® with internet access for morning news review, math applications, literacy, and for science and social studies research. Additionally, computer stations are provided in the classroom to support instruction.

Progress Tracking and Reporting



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

For more information on Reference Point® and other programs at Daniel Island Academy, please visit our website or call to schedule a tour.

www.danielislandacademy.com

300 Seven Farms Drive
Daniel Island, SC 29492
843.971.5961

