



## Sampling of Junior Kindergarten Curriculum Objectives

### Language Arts:

- Read high-quality children's literature, and relate story events and characters to one's own experiences
- Make predictions about stories
- Answer who, what, where, when, and why questions about a read-aloud
- Give the beginning sound of a spoken word
- Point to and name basic shapes
- After listening to an oral description of a scene, recreate the scene in pictures
- "Retell" a story that has been read aloud
- "Read"/tell a story based on the illustrations of a book with text that has not been read aloud previously
- Act out familiar rhymes or poems
- Point to the title of a book, to where to start reading, to a word, and to a letter
- Point to words that begin with the same letter as own first name
- Make beginning efforts to use invented, phonetic spelling to communicate in writing
- Given a word, provide a rhyming word
- Give the sounds of at least three letters of the alphabet, especially those in the child's own name
- Hold a writing instrument correctly between the thumb and index finger, resting it against the middle finger

### Physical Education:

*Phys-ed is delivered in both English and French. Children learn a second language best by being immersed in the language in a playful and active way.*

- Climb, roll, jump, slide, crawl, and somersault
- Maintain balance while walking forward, backward, and sideways on a balance beam
- Construct and use fun obstacle and circuit courses
- Throw or kick an object with increasing accuracy at identified targets varying in height and distance
- Play group games such as tag and relay races
- Play catch using a large ball, with a partner

### Social Skills:

- Identify and label emotions
- Use acceptable methods to express anger and frustration
- Practice independence with self-care
- Practice listening behaviours
- Practice asking for help appropriately
- Taking turns, sharing, cooperating

- Attempting to solve conflicts with words
- Ignoring inappropriate peer behavior
- Follow rules for games
- Working as part of a small group

### Science:

- Explore many science themes (to be determined by the students and teachers)
- Identify basic organs, their location and function
- Classify images of animals according to the habitat in which they live
- Plant, care for, and record observations of a plant
- Explore the five human senses
- Investigate human, animal, and plant life cycles
- Discover the effect when different substances are combined
- Explore the basic properties of air, light, and water
- Learn how to take care of the Earth

### Math Centres:

- Sort objects according to a single criterion
- Duplicate and continue patterns
- Compare the length, height, and mass of objects
- Given a number, create a group with the correct number of objects (up to 6)
- Copy a tower or construction that has been made by another person, using blocks of different shapes, colors, or sizes
- Name and write numerals 1-6
- Name the days of the week
- Sequence events
- Explore simple maps

### Music:

- Imitate clapping patterns
- Accompany an adult by either clapping or using rhythm instruments to maintain the beat in a chant or song
- Listen to and sing songs
- Listen to and move to music of different styles and periods
- Discriminate between a fast and slow beat, high and low pitch, and loud and soft sounds
- Recognize instruments by sight and sound

### Art:

- Experiment with collage, painting, drawing, printing, sculpture, and sewing
- Learn about specific works of art from well-known artists



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why should I send my 4-year-old to Touchstone's Junior Kindergarten Program?**

The understanding of early learning has dramatically increased in recent years. The belief that people are born with a fixed intellectual capability is outdated. It is now known that the right kind of stimulation early on dramatically affects children's capacity to learn for the rest of their lives. Touchstone's teachers have learned that our students benefit from high-quality learning experiences before entering senior kindergarten.

### **How will Touchstone's Junior Kindergarten Program be different from other preschools?**

In a play-based, hands-on environment, our students explore mathematics, literacy, music, French, science, art, social skills, and physical education. The environment at Touchstone is supportive, creative, and enriching, and our teachers use exploration and discovery rather than drills and worksheets. Our curriculum and assessments are structured, but the activities are always creative, fun, and hands-on. Many preschools do not have a coherent and sequenced curriculum, but rather a set of beliefs on how children learn.

### **Does Touchstone use a teacher-directed approach or a student-directed approach?**

Touchstone uses a wide range of teaching strategies. Sometimes it is most effective to present a skill in a small group, planned and directed by the teacher. Sometimes a skill is learned best when children play together in learning centres. Other times, the whole class comes together to explore topics. Our students are also given lots of time for free-play to develop their social skills and learn together.

### **What about students' own ideas and interests?**

Touchstone prides itself on respecting students' curiosity and interests and developing their unique gifts. In fact, this is one of our seven main objectives.

### **My child is very active and just wants to run around and have fun.**

The learning at Touchstone uses this enthusiasm for exploration in all activities: dancing to music, cooking when learning about measurement, playing math games, and constructing architectural masterpieces out of blocks. Activities are structured in such a way that they allow for a lot of movement, change and choice. Outdoor play and physical education are also a priority, where they have the opportunity to run, jump and be active.

### **I don't want my child to have structured art lessons. I just want her to have the opportunity to be creative.**

So do we. There is an important difference between art and craft. In art, the only goal is creativity. Craft involves following directions and copying someone else's sample (for example, everyone making the same snowman with cotton balls); the creativity does not come from the child. Touchstone's art program consists mainly of art, with minimal craft. To us, the process is so much more important than the end product.

### **Why is Physical Education in French?**

Students learn a new language best when they are exposed to it in an active way. Hearing "Throw me the ball" in French each day is a very effective method.



**How will you select students to join the Touchstone Junior Kindergarten Program?**

All children would benefit from Touchstone's Junior Kindergarten Program; however, if we feel that our program will not meet a child's learning or emotional needs, we will inform the parents as soon as possible. For more details, please see our [Acceptance Policy](#).

**How will parents be informed of their child's progress?**

As in our elementary level, our parents will receive two detailed progress reports and have three parent/teacher conferences each year. Portfolios will also be kept to document learning through photos, artwork, examples of student writing and oral stories. In addition, parents will have the opportunity to chat with their child's teacher briefly before or after school each day. Parents can also set up meetings with their child's teacher at any time.

| For more information or further questions, please [visit www.touchstonecommunityschool.ca](http://www.touchstonecommunityschool.ca) or call 847-2673 and speak with the Principal, Jeff McAloon, or the Head of Academics, Angela Prosser.