



## Kindergarten Program at Ridge Hill School

I am thrilled to be able to help guide your child on their first step of their academic journey. The program at Ridge Hill prides itself on teaching to the individual child as opposed to the whole group. Although all lessons are taught as a whole group the end result is geared toward each child and their learning needs. My goal as a teacher is to have each child leave Ridge Hill with a strong foundation in both language and math skills. This is accomplished through the use of manipulatives and hands on learning. I do not believe in an over abundance of worksheet learning - I feel children learn best when given the opportunity to explore first and then when ready they can put that learning on paper.

Below is a list of some of the manipulatives used in kindergarten:

- \*magnetic ten frame
- \*letter tiles (blue for consonants and red for vowels)
- \*unifix cubes
- \*cuisenaire rods
- \*double sided counters
- \*one inch blocks



Word families - through the use of phoneme substitution the children create new words by changing the beginning sounds in words - at, mat, cat, sat, flat,

Story mapping - read a story to the class and they talk about beginning, middle, end, setting, and favorite part. They learn the author and illustrator of all books we read.

Emergent readers - done weekly or bi-weekly, the children highlight the specific focus sight words in the book - goal is to have them reading at least the focus words - some children are able to read the whole book

### MATH:

10 Frame math - allows children to "see" numbers and gain a visual understanding that 6 is 1 more than 5 or that 6 is 4 less than 10 - we use this math daily when teaching math. The children know how to create their own ten frame using counters.

Number recognition to 100 - each day at calendar the class manipulates numbers on the count to 100 section - strengthens their understanding and recognition of numbers up to 100

Patterns, sequencing, ordinal numbers, 3-d shapes

Basic intro to simple math equations using 10 frames - up to +3

### Journal time:

HWT proper letter formation

writing of their first and last name using capital at the beginning and lowercase the rest

sentence skills - start with a capital, space between words and proper punctuation at the end

### Sight word activities:

introduce new words first on the white board through the use of simple sentences...

I see a big tree. I see a big bug. I see a big mat.

I can go. I can go home. I can go fast.

sight word games - go fish, memory, sight word slap, read around the stage



Ridge Hill School  
Kindergarten Curriculum Night

The Ridge Hill School curriculum meets all Massachusetts Core State standards to prepare children for entry into First Grade. We individualize learning as all children learn at different paces and in different ways. The main goal is to be sure each child is successful in its learning and has a strong understanding of all concepts required by the state.

**ELA** - phonemic awareness skills, phonetic skills and word recognition able to recall information ability to add details to writing ability to draw, dictate and write

**DIBELS**

ability to read nonsense words, recognize letters and sounds journal entries - done independently using phonemic skills weekly buddy reading of early readers (goal is to have each child confidently reading a beginning reader book) onset/rimes, silent (e) introduce 50 common words (goal is for all children to recognize these words in print by June)

**HWT program** - The Ridge Hill School uses Handwriting Without Tears to teach children the proper formation of letters and numbers. The children will learn many fun songs and use wooden pieces to help them with their writing formation.

**Math** - number names, counting sequence 1:1 correspondence greater than/less than/=, able to compare numbers addition/subtraction up to 5, identify and describe shapes classify objects by category, number writing scrolls (goal is to 100 by June) use manipulatives to illustrate math problems, time (:00, :15, :30, :45) money: able to recognize coins and count money

**Social Studies** - topics to be covered: community information, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Native Americans, Pilgrims, family cultures, MLK, Jr., Memorial Day, Presidents and our country.

**Science** - done several times each month - topics vary depending on themes and seasons animal study - the class will work together and research and learn about a winter animal and make their own animal fact book

**We have covered the following topics since September:**

**Phonemic awareness** - understanding that spoken words are made up of sounds...

the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds-phonemes--in spoken words

increases their understanding that words consist of individual phonemes and not just sounds - which would include syllables, onsets, rimes, rhyming, phoneme substitution and deletion (man - an)

**CVC words** - basic decoding and reading of simple 3 letter words. The focus is on the short vowels, beginning and ending sounds. For example - when shown a picture of a cat they would tap the word out on their arm and write each sound as they hear it - /c/ /a/ /t/