

# Preschool/Pre-K Curriculum 2009 – 2010 Outline

## EXPLORING DIFFERENT CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AUGUST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: Q, V</li> <li>• Numbers: 17, 22</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>Humpty Dumpty</i></li> <li>• WELCOME TO SCHOOL</li> <li>• GETTING ACQUAINTED</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: G, K, E</li> <li>• Numbers: 7, 11, 5</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>One, Two, Buckle My Shoe</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: MEXICO</li> <li>• FALL</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: X, J, U</li> <li>• Numbers: 24, 10, 21</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>Hot Cross Buns</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: AUSTRALIA</li> <li>• FALL</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: Z, H, C</li> <li>• Numbers: 26, 8, 3</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>Jack Sprat</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: AFRICA</li> <li>• FALL</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: L, D, N</li> <li>• Numbers: 12, 4, 14</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>Hey Diddle Diddle</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: CUBA</li> <li>• WINTER</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JANUARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: I, R, O</li> <li>• Numbers: 9, 18, 15</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>Little Jack Horner</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: FRANCE</li> <li>• WINTER</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: B, S, P</li> <li>• Numbers: 2, 19, 16</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>The Ants Go Marching In</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: CHINA</li> <li>• WINTER</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MARCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: F, T, Y</li> <li>• Numbers: 6, 20, 25</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>Eeny Meeny Miny Moe</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: GERMANY</li> <li>• SPRING</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: A, M, W</li> <li>• Numbers: 1, 13, 23</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: INDIA</li> <li>• SPRING</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters: REVIEW A-Z</li> <li>• Numbers: 1-26</li> <li>• Shapes: Review</li> <li>• Nursery Rhyme: <i>John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt</i></li> <li>• CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD: RUSSIA</li> <li>• SPRING</li> </ul>		

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

Welcome back to the new school year! We have decided to try a new approach with our curriculum, and are excited for the year ahead. You will notice our theme for the year is "Exploring Different Cultures Around the World". We feel the children will be better served by the implementation of multicultural education by expanding their knowledge base and overall understanding of the world around them. An education rich in different cultures will allow the children to have a more empathic outlook on the world in which they live in. In addition, the majority of students who take part in a multicultural education have a stronger cognitive understanding of the lessons and knowledge presented in class.

We have selected a country to focus on each month and will explore the different cultures and people within that country. We also hope to create stronger family partnerships, and invite all family members to share their knowledge and experiences with us!

## **TEACHING THE LETTERS & LITERACY**

This year we will reinforce letter recognition as well as focus on vocabulary development, phonics, and phonemic awareness. We will be using the Zoo Phonics Adventures in Learning (Preschool Level) program to supplement our lesson plans.

Zoo-phonics is a method developed to make children strong readers and spellers using a "phono" (hearing), "oral" (speaking), "visual" (seeing), "kinesthetic" (moving), and tactile (touching)—whole brain approach. Students actually learn the sounds of the alphabet and advanced phonemic concepts through an easily understood, concrete method of presentation.

### **WHAT IS PHONICS?:**

Phonics is knowing that sounds and letters have a relationship.

### **Why is phonics important?**

The ultimate goal of reading is good comprehension. But in order for your child to understand what he reads, he must be able to do it quickly and automatically, without stumbling over words. Phonics facilitates that process. With lots of practice sounding out words, in combination with other important reading skills such as phonemic awareness, letter recognition, vocabulary building, and concepts of print, he learns to read more fluently. Then he can turn his attention to grasping the passages.

### **WHAT IS PHONEMIC AWARENESS?:**

First of all, Phonemic awareness is not phonics. Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds-phonemes--in spoken words. Before children learn to read print, they need to become more aware of how the sounds in words work. They must understand that words are made up of speech sounds, or *phonemes* (the smallest parts of sound in a spoken word that make a difference in a word's meaning).

### **Why is Phonemic Awareness Important?**

- It requires readers to notice how letters represent sounds. It primes readers for print.
- It gives readers a way to approach sounding out and reading new words.
- It helps readers understand the alphabetic principle (that the letters in words are systematically represented by sounds).

### **WHY CHILDREN NEED NURSERY RHYMES**

Nursery Rhymes introduce children to the idea of a narrative, promote social skills, boost language development, and lay the foundation for learning to read and spell.

In fact, reciting nursery rhymes may be just as important as reading stories and talking to your child. A rhyme's repetition can sensitize the children to the individual units of sound known as phonemes, which make up words. Nursery rhymes and other repetitive language help children learn to think their way through a word sound by sound in the order in which they hear it. This ability, known as phonemic segmentation, is the best predictor of future reading success.