



Deutsche Botschaftsschule Peking

北京德国使馆学校

Das Englisch-Programm des Kindergartens/der Vorschule der DSP

Introduction

The English program is designed to help young children learn the language the easy, fun and interesting way. The preschool years are a special time in the life of young children. During this period, they begin to trust others outside the family. They gain independence and self-control, learn to take initiative and assert themselves in socially acceptable ways. At the same time, they become keen observers of their world and experiment with their surroundings to find out what happens when they interact with other people and handle objects and materials. Preschoolers use thousands of words, complex phrases and sentences to communicate. As they learn to understand others and express their ideas more effectively, their environment becomes larger and richer. In addition, preschoolers are changing physically-growing and gaining strength, agility and coordination. Below, we describe the seven areas of development of the English language.

Feelings and Emotions

As English is the most widely used International language, it is important for children growing up in an international community to develop their feelings vocabulary and expressions in English to ensure they are understood.

During both morning and afternoon classes, feelings and emotions are dealt with on a regular basis; developing feelings and emotional vocabulary helps children learn to express their own feelings

On a daily basis, feelings and emotions are dealt with to encourage students to be in control of their own feelings, rather than relying on a teacher or someone in authority to translate their feelings for them. We also help children to control their own emotions and to project them in a more constructive manner. Enabling children to cope with their feelings helps to build their self esteem



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Numbers

In both morning and afternoon classes various number skills are covered: numbers, counting, telling the time and an introduction to mathematics.

The first step is an introduction to the spoken number to allow the children to familiarise themselves with the sound, which is then followed by an introduction to the written number. This is good for the children's development of numbers as it breaks down the process and allows it to be a simple learning exercise.

Telling the time is introduced to them when they have a basic understanding of numbers and is presented in stages starting with the o'clocks (hours) and then moving on to the divisions of time. This helps the children's development and gives them a sense of control and confidence.

Counting is also introduced to the children to help them with the next step from kindergarten to primary education.

Art

Art is also covered both in morning and afternoon classes, it is seen as fun and children learn best when they are enjoying themselves and the use of colour helps them learn. As most of the children cannot read at this point, art is an excellent way to help them learn a word or phrase association through a picture.

Children should develop their art skills as young as possible because their minds are open and not yet programmed to seeing things as being a certain way. Plus, at a young age, children's mental skills are developing at such a fast rate that teaching them to draw will help them express themselves through images later in life.

Art also assists children to learn inter-personal skills to help them cope with problems they may be faced with and to develop different views from other children around them. Why is art such a great educational tool? Children can learn and develop significantly without realising that they are actually achieving something.



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Fine-Motor Skills

Preschool prepares every child to develop fine-motor skills which are small muscle movements of the fingers that help them to perform school readiness activities. During their stay at the Kindergarten we make sure that they acquire and develop such skills through various fun preschool activities and worksheets.

The following are preschool activities that we do to promote fine-motor skills. These are arranged according to topics in our English program during mornings and afternoons:

- a. Colouring pages
- b. Cutting activities (making cards, panorama, making images...etc)
- c. Dot to Dot activities (by numbers and letters)
- d. Art and Crafts
- e. Worksheets for Mazes and Letter formatting
- f. Lacing and sewing activities
- g. Work on chalkboard
- h. Threading beads and gluing small pieces of glitters and sequence
- i. Finger tracing and painting
- j. Tying bows or shoes
- k. Working on puzzles, blocks and Lego
- l. Singing and dancing

Every child will acquire the fine-motor skills needed for handwriting in a different time- table simply because they all develop at different rates.

We believe that motivation and encouragement with plenty of reinforcement for their efforts helps them boost their confidence in doing the above activities, which in the long run prepares them for bigger and various activities at school.



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Music

Music has always been part of a preschooler's life. Hence the quote by author Mr. Foreman:

Preschool songs and nursery rhymes –*“they are the first furnishings of the mind; the bottom-most layer of the comfortable hereditary clutter of mottoes, proverbs and half-remembered tales that we use to ornament conversations throughout our lives, knowing that they are common currency.”*
(Iona Opie, foreword of Michael Foreman's Nursery Rhymes)

The early childhood years are important years when it comes to musical development. Children who play or sing music regularly perform better in reading and maths when they begin elementary school.

Thus, we always input music through nursery rhymes, poems and songs to our lessons and topics in order for them to develop memory and auditory skills, which are necessary skills when they begin proper schooling.

Some of our activities to promote music are:

1. Singing and Dancing
2. Nursery Rhymes
3. Poems and Songs (for different seasons, days of the week etc.)
4. Playing with Instruments
5. Rhythm Movements and Clapping Hands
6. Play Acting



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Nature and Science

Preschoolers learn through play and interactive activities. Awareness of nature and science through little experiments and various fun activities to explore the beauty and mystery of science gives life to learning at an early age.

Science and Nature is included in the English program by conducting simple observations, activities and little experiments on things that have to do with the weather, seasons, animals, colours and the outside environment. We also use games, artwork, books and other tools to be of further help in making them understand the concepts of science behind those topics.

Furthermore, Science is just everywhere and we see things everyday that is part of Science, so preschoolers have access to it. The Kindergarten is always there to open their eyes and to stimulate kids to grasp this knowledge.