

RATIONALE

The basic activities in an effective English Language Arts program is to equip students to combine a variety of sequentially acquired skills to derive meaning from text and communication. The kindergarten teacher guides students through an ELA program to help them learn, practice, apply, and integrate specific skills so that they can become independent readers and writers. However, students need to go beyond basic activities to become proficient readers, creative writers, and expressive speakers who can benefit from the pleasures, inspirations and knowledge gained from knowing how to read and effectively communicate.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The kindergarten ELA course has four main components: reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language. The ELA curriculum provides the learner with a foundation on which to build. Various approaches are used to integrate all components.

IMPORTANT LEARNER OUTCOMES

Reading:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of literature and informational texts
2. Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print
3. Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes)
4. Know and apply kindergarten-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
5. Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding

Written Communication:

1. Compose basic opinion and narrative pieces and informative/explanatory texts
2. Explore digital tools to produce and publish writing
3. Participate in shared research and writing projects

Speaking and Listening:

1. Participate in collaborative conversations
2. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly

Language:

1. Use the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
2. Use capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
3. Determine the meaning of unknown words based on kindergarten reading and content

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated using a variety of formal and informal assessments. Daily assignments, classroom activities, and discussion will also be used. Mastery learning will be used to re-teach and re-test when appropriate.