

## **Pre-K Programs (3 & 4 year olds)**

Our 3 & 4 year program is designed to inspire your child to be creative, interactive explorers, and be active participants in their learning. Our curriculum follows NAEYC guidelines with monthly thematic units in alignment with our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP). We plan the learning experiences necessary for children's social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development. Teachers guide your child's inquisitiveness and elevate their thinking level so that they can make discoveries for themselves. Skills and concepts learned in the classroom are reinforced and extended throughout the year.

The curriculum encourages children to be actively involved in the learning process, to experience a variety of developmentally appropriate activities and materials, and to pursue their own interest in the context of life in the community and the world. In our community of discovery, countless new experiences are waiting to be explored.

## **Areas of Development**

Our curriculum focuses on the following primary areas of development for 3 to 5 year olds:

### **Communication and Language Development:**

Communication entails more than just speaking words; it's expressing thoughts, wants, and needs. Communication also involves listening and understanding what others are saying. *Our Program offers children the opportunity to freely to express their thoughts, ideas, questions, opinions, new words, and new phrases, with their friends and teachers.* Children will be immersed in a print-rich environment, boosting their pre-literacy skills.

### **Cognitive Development:**

Increasing cognitive skills in 3 to 5 year olds includes problem solving and logical thinking activities. Children will be encouraged to use their creativity and curiosity when they encounter new tasks, such as building a city out of blocks. To develop logical-thinking skills, our teachers read carefully selected children's books throughout the day, encouraging the children to answer questions and express opinions about the stories.

### **Math and Science Skills Development:**

Our program also focuses on math and science tasks, which are vital school readiness skills. Children will be introduced to patterning, classifying, and identifying shapes. The teachers will provide many hands-on opportunities for children to explore colors, animals, plants, and other important science topics.

Math skills are being formed while children play. These activities involve:

- Shapes, sizes, patterns and sequencing
- Sorting and categorizing into sets
- Counting and comparison, one-to-one correspondence
- Measuring length and weight
- Number symbols and quantity
- Graphing

Science concepts are developed by:

- Observing seasonal changes related to weather, plant life, animal behavior and activities of people
- Sorting and categorizing items according to various properties
- Hiking trails to observe plant and animal life and collect bugs, worms and other small creatures
- Learning basic conservation of and respect for nature
- Growing plants from seeds and bulbs and observing
- Discovering how magnets work

Social studies concepts are introduced by:

- Learning about similarities and differences in peers and their families
- Exploring the community on field trips and learning about occupations
- Visiting families' homes, celebrating children's birthdays and sharing family traditions
- Experiencing a variety of multi-cultural customs, having hands-on activities with cultural materials
- Learning how people who have disabilities experience life, learning respect for differences
- Role-playing about families and occupations

### **Art Skills**

- Art experiences emphasize the process rather than the product.
- Time, space and the freedom to work independently help children increase their attention span and improve fine motor skills
- have a successful emotional experience and a sense of independence

**Physical Skills:** Jardín de Niños Interlingua has adopted a unique physical education program used to enhance neuro-motor sensory integration and language for maximum development of each child's innate potential. This stimulation aids in maturity, following the natural progression of neurological development. It aids in the maturity of the nervous system, establishes maximum neuronal connections, and strengthens the physical and intellectual capacity of the child. Focus is placed on developing gross and fine motor skills, which strengthen the large muscle groups of the body, including arms and legs, fingers and hands.

At Jardín de Niños, gross motor skills are developed during times set aside for movement activities, especially on the playground, using open spaces and equipment to encourage large motor development.

**Social and Emotional Development:** As children become preschoolers through Kindergarten, their social and emotional skills need the guidance of a nurturing teacher. Teachers design activities to increase children's independence, allow them to become more confident in their abilities, and prompt them to play a responsible role in their classroom community.

- Building self-esteem through communication, planning, responsibility, problem-solving, participation, following directions, imagination and sharing within the group
- Developing skills in collaboration, compromise, self-expression, respect for each other through group dialogue
- Using open-ended materials and activities which allow children to work at their own pace, alone at times as well as together with friends