



Bridge Kindergarten FAQ

What exactly is Bridge Kindergarten?

Our Bridge Kindergarten program is designed for children who are not quite ready socially or academically for Kindergarten. Our Bridge Kindergarten benefits children who have mastered pre-school concepts but may not be ready for the rigor associated with the traditional Kindergarten classroom. The Bridge Kindergarten program gives children time to mature socially and emotionally, to grow physically and to gain confidence. Success in Kindergarten depends on many factors, and this program gives children opportunities to build their skills in many of these important areas.

Who is eligible for this program?

Children who turn 5 before December 1st are eligible for our Bridge Kindergarten program.

What if my child DOES meet traditional age requirements?

Children who have already turned five are certainly eligible for and welcome in this program. The small class size will allow the teacher to modify lessons for children who may be more advanced in their understanding of certain concepts. Because our curriculum is aligned with the Kindergarten standards for the state of Texas, children in our Bridge Kindergarten program will not “miss out” on learning any important concepts as they prepare to enter 1st grade.

What will my child learn?

The curriculum is aligned with the Kindergarten Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards. Children in our program will learn what Kindergarteners throughout the state of Texas are learning – early literacy skills, pre-math skills, social studies skills and science skills. Children will also be exposed to fine arts, technology, religion, physical development and Spanish.

What curriculum will be used in the Bridge Kindergarten Program?

The Mondo Bookshop Reading Program, a comprehensive, research-based literacy program and Kathy Richardson’s *Developing Number Concepts* are the foundation of our curriculum. The Mondo program incorporates the five elements of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics/word study, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency). This program also includes extensive reading assessments that guide the teacher’s use of the program with individual students. Our math program includes hands-on activities that expose children to foundational math concepts. The curriculum incorporates whole group, small group and independent activities.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Each parent will be invited to participate in two parent-teacher conferences during the school year. One conference will be held in November and one will be held in April. The November conference has been scheduled to coincide with admissions deadlines for many private schools and the magnet/vanguard program deadlines for HISD. Parent or teacher may request conferences at other times during the year.

Will my child have to repeat Kindergarten after a year in your Bridge Kindergarten Program?

No. At the November parent-teacher conference, the classroom teacher and parents will discuss the most appropriate next steps for each child. Children completing the program may go on to a traditional Kindergarten program or to 1st grade. Children who do not meet traditional age requirements could go on to 1st grade in HISD through the Age Waiver process.

Will my child nap during the day?

Children have a short quiet time after lunch. Children put their heads on their desks and the lights are dimmed.

How many children will be in class?

There will be up to 12 children in the class with 1 certified teacher.