

The Calgary Jewish Academy



Discovery Kids 2009-2010

Teacher: Mrs. A. Kaminer
Teaching Assistant: Mrs. S. O'Connor

Special and Gifted Services
Technology Support
Library Support
Remedial English/Hebrew
& English as a Second Language
Guidance Councillor

Ms. F. Bowden
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Ms. T. Belanger
Ms. T. Freidman
Mrs. S. Gaon-Kazdan

Discovery Kids is a Kindergarten extension program based on the importance of childhood inquiry and exploration of the world around them. The program is built around hands on investigation and discovery. Children will explore and discover through exciting, stimulating, and developmentally appropriate activities that are designed to promote development in a wide range of areas; social-emotional, psychomotor and intellectual. The Discovery Kids Program will have two main goals:

1. To encourage the children to explore, discover and question the world around them
2. To encourage excitement and enjoyment in learning

Units will be chosen with the idea that lessons should be meaningful and relate to the children's personal experiences, developmental stages and interests. Discovery Kids will give the children many opportunities to work in teams. At this age teamwork not only teaches the children to cooperate but also respect other people's ideas.

The Discovery Kids program will include units such as:

- Why do we discover?
- Five Senses – how we use them to discover
- Weather • Rainforest/ Jungles
- Outerspace
- Buildings and Structures

The children will be involved in many hands on activities which will enhance their inquiry and learning:

1. **Science Experiments**
2. **Building** -The use of a variety of materials to create three dimensional objects.
3. **Show and Tell** Show and Tell will take place during closing circle. The children are expected to bring in items from our natural environment or items that are related to our theme. Please do not send toys for show and tell as we would like the items be of scientific interest.

Daily Routine

Discovery Kids children eat lunch at school from 11:40 - 12:30. This time also includes outdoor play - weather permitting.

Following lunch, the children are escorted to the Discovery Kids classroom where the afternoon will include the following types of activities:

1. Circle Time

Discussion of theme; introduction of new activities; directions for afternoon

2. Small Group Activities

Some children will participate in teacher-directed activities while others will complete projects.

3. Centres/Free Play

Many different activities and centres will be available for exploration. This is predominately a self-directed time but teacher-directed activities are also included.

4. Snack

Children provide their own snack from home.

5. Group Activity

Games, gym, cooking, outside play (depending on day)

6. Closing Circle

Story time, Show and Tell and dismissal.

Appropriate Dress

Creative play can be very active and messy work! Please make sure your child is dressed in comfortable clothing that he or she will not be afraid to get dirty, and that they can move in freely.

Field Trips

From time to time, Discovery Kids may go on field trips that will enhance our units. Information about trips will be sent out in advance.

Reporting

Children will receive a separate Discovery Kids report that will be included with each of the three regular report cards. Reports and records will be anecdotal, and a portfolio of work will be kept for each child. Parents will have the opportunity to schedule Parent/Teacher Interviews for Discovery Kids, but should feel free to contact the teacher at any time at school should they have questions or concerns.