

Junior Kindergarten/ Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How many students are in the class?

The maximum number of students that we can have in our Kindergarten/ Junior Kindergarten is 14 students.

2. What is Junior Kindergarten?

Junior Kindergarten is a transitional kindergarten classroom from preschool to a traditional kindergarten. It allows the child to have another year at a preschool-type setting to enhance their social and emotional development while receiving a Kindergarten education. Because of the small class-size, the teacher can tailor the classroom academic and social curriculum to the needs of the students. Typically, students that have a summer birthday or early fall birthday take advantage of the Junior Kindergarten class, but it can be for any student that needs an extra year at a half day program.

3. How is this different from a traditional Kindergarten?

Our program is a hybrid of a transitional (Junior Kindergarten) kindergarten and a traditional kindergarten. It has a nice balance of academic learning and social/emotional development through play. It is also a half day program for those that are not quite ready for a full day Kindergarten program. The curriculum is a Kindergarten curriculum that the teacher can adjust to the needs of the students in the class.

4. Can my child go into a Kindergarten in a public/private school if they attend Junior Kindergarten?

Yes! Everything we learn is set in a Kindergarten curriculum. It benefits the child to relearn the curriculum in a full day kindergarten program and allows them to be more advanced in a larger setting.

5. Can my child go into first grade after Junior Kindergarten/ Kindergarten?

Yes! Our teacher is a licensed early childhood AND elementary educator. She has experience teaching preschool, Kindergarten and first grade and understands developmentally what children need at the kindergarten and first grade level. She will teach your child a Kindergarten curriculum that will allow your child to go straight into first grade if they are developmentally ready. She will provide you with the necessary paperwork that you will need to provide to your desired elementary school.

6. How will I know whether my child should go to first grade or kindergarten after Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten?

Our teacher spends the first month of the year really evaluating and assessing each child. This allows the teacher to modify and adapt the curriculum to the needs of the students. The teacher will spend time during conferences speaking to your family about whether your child will be ready for first grade or kindergarten for the following year. She uses a kindergarten readiness assessment, a guided reading level assessment and a developmental assessment which looks at the whole child including their social development. She can also shift gears in the middle of the year if you decide to change your mind in where to place your child for the following year to make sure your child is getting the necessary academic elements.

Please contact Mrs. Osborne, our Junior Kindergarten teacher and Assistant director, for more information about our Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten hybrid program.