



Welcome to MCS Foundations Curriculum

Mid-Cities Scholars

Introduction to MCS Foundations

At Mid-Cities Scholars, we are proud to present the MCS Foundations Curriculum, a groundbreaking educational framework that represents the culmination of our years of experience and dedication to early childhood education. This curriculum was developed in collaboration with top-tier educators and is inspired by Montessori principles, though we've adapted it specifically for our students. Rooted in hands-on, experiential learning, MCS Foundations draws from the Texas Rising Star-approved CLI Engage curriculum and is tailored to promote curiosity, independence, and a passion for discovery in young learners.

The MCS Foundations Curriculum is more than just a series of lessons—it's a holistic, research-based approach to early childhood education designed to meet the diverse developmental needs of each child in our program. We are dedicated to ensuring that every child in our care thrives academically, socially, and emotionally. Our curriculum is structured to provide rich, engaging experiences that help children build critical foundational skills that will support them for a lifetime.

Our Philosophy: Nurturing the Whole Child

At Mid-Cities Scholars, we believe in fostering a balanced approach to learning that nurtures the whole child—cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically. We recognize that children learn best through exploration and active participation, so we've crafted our curriculum around interactive and engaging activities that are designed to build confidence, problem-solving skills, and a love for learning.

The MCS Foundations Curriculum provides structured, purposeful learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate and cater to each child's unique learning style. By offering hands-on learning experiences across key areas such as literacy, math, science, art, and physical development, we are equipping children with the skills they need to excel academically and personally.

Our Educators: Highly Qualified and Passionate

At the heart of the MCS Foundations Curriculum is our dedicated team of educators. With degrees in early childhood education and continuous professional development, our teachers are not only experts in their fields but are passionate about fostering an enriching learning environment for all children. Led by our highly experienced director, our educators create an atmosphere of encouragement, respect, and academic rigor that enables children to thrive.

Our staff works collaboratively to create a rich learning environment that supports children's developmental progress and ensures they are on track to meet important milestones. Their dedication to excellence ensures that each child receives the personalized attention they need to flourish.

MCS Foundations Curriculum by Age Group

At Mid-Cities Scholars, we understand that each stage of early childhood requires a unique approach to learning. That's why the MCS Foundations Curriculum is tailored to meet the developmental needs of each age group, ensuring that children receive the appropriate support and challenges for their level of growth. Below is a detailed look at how the MCS Foundations Curriculum supports children across different age groups in our program.

Infant II (12-17 Months)

For our youngest learners, the primary focus is on sensory exploration and the development of fine and gross motor skills. At this age, children are naturally curious and eager to explore their surroundings, so our curriculum is designed to encourage hands-on exploration and discovery. Infants in our program are introduced to different textures, sounds, and shapes through carefully crafted sensory activities that stimulate their senses and encourage cognitive development.

In addition to sensory activities, we place a strong emphasis on fostering early communication. Our teachers use a combination of verbal interactions, songs, and basic sign language to help infants develop their language and communication skills. These early language experiences are vital in building the foundation for future literacy development.

Through activities like soft block building, interactive nursery rhymes, and simple cause-and-effect toys, children in the Infant II class learn to solve problems, recognize patterns, and build relationships with their peers and caregivers. These experiences

help them develop early social-emotional skills, such as turn-taking and sharing, which are critical at this stage of development.

Toddlers (18-24 Months)

As children transition into the Toddler class, the MCS Foundations Curriculum begins to introduce more structured activities that promote language development, motor skills, and early academic concepts. Toddlers are naturally energetic and curious, so we provide a variety of activities that encourage movement, exploration, and creative expression.

In this class, we focus on refining both fine and gross motor skills. Activities like stacking blocks, scribbling with large crayons, and using simple tools (such as child-safe scissors or playdough cutters) help toddlers improve their hand-eye coordination and strengthen their motor abilities. Through daily arts and crafts projects, toddlers are encouraged to experiment with colors and textures, which not only stimulates creativity but also aids in the development of fine motor control.

Language development is a key focus at this stage, and our curriculum is designed to help toddlers expand their vocabulary and begin forming simple sentences. Through interactive storytimes, singing, and group discussions, children are exposed to new words and concepts daily. Our teachers engage toddlers in conversations that promote critical thinking and language comprehension, laying the groundwork for future literacy success.

Mathematical thinking is also introduced through playful activities that involve counting, sorting, and recognizing shapes. Simple counting games, puzzles, and shape sorters are used to introduce basic math concepts in a fun and engaging way.

Early Preschool (2-Year-Olds)

At age two, children are ready for more complex learning experiences that challenge them to think critically and engage socially. The Early Preschool program in the MCS Foundations Curriculum emphasizes social-emotional development, literacy foundations, and early math skills.

Children in this class are introduced to cooperative play, where they learn to share, collaborate, and solve problems together. Through role-playing games and group activities, children develop important social skills such as empathy, patience, and cooperation. These experiences help them navigate social relationships and build a sense of community within the classroom.

The literacy component of the curriculum focuses on building a strong foundation for reading and writing. Children are introduced to the alphabet through hands-on activities such as letter matching games, alphabet puzzles, and storytelling sessions. By exploring books, practicing letter recognition, and participating in storytime discussions, children begin to develop early literacy skills that prepare them for more formal reading instruction.

In math, children explore basic concepts like patterns, counting, and sorting. Activities such as matching colored objects, creating patterns with blocks, and practicing simple counting exercises help children build their mathematical reasoning skills. These early math experiences are essential for developing logical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Preschool (3-Year-Olds)

The Preschool program in the MCS Foundations Curriculum is designed to prepare children for the more structured learning environment they will encounter in Pre-K and beyond. At this stage, children are introduced to pre-reading and writing skills, early scientific inquiry, and creative expression through the arts.

Children are encouraged to explore their environment and ask questions through simple science experiments and nature-based activities. For example, children may engage in a leaf-collecting activity where they observe the different shapes, sizes, and colors of leaves, sparking curiosity about the natural world. These hands-on experiences promote scientific thinking and encourage children to make predictions and observations.

Pre-reading skills are developed through phonemic awareness activities, letter tracing, and word recognition exercises. Children are introduced to early writing through fun, interactive activities that encourage them to trace letters, practice their names, and engage in creative storytelling. These experiences lay the foundation for future literacy development and foster a love for reading.

Art and creative expression are also key components of the Preschool program. Children are encouraged to express themselves through various mediums, including painting, drawing, and sculpting. These art activities not only foster creativity but also help children develop fine motor skills and enhance their ability to focus and follow instructions.

Pre-K (4-Year-Olds)

In our Pre-K program, the MCS Foundations Curriculum is designed to provide children with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. This program places a strong emphasis on literacy and math readiness, as well as the development of problem-solving skills and social-emotional competence.

Children engage in more advanced literacy activities, such as learning to blend sounds, recognize sight words, and write simple sentences. Storytime becomes an opportunity for children to discuss characters, predict plot outcomes, and retell stories in their own words, fostering comprehension and critical thinking.

In math, children work on more complex concepts such as number recognition, simple addition and subtraction, and pattern recognition. Activities like counting games, building with blocks, and math-based puzzles help children develop their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving abilities.

Pre-K students also participate in group projects that promote teamwork, leadership, and communication skills. Whether they are building a model city out of recycled materials or putting on a small play, these collaborative activities teach children how to work together, resolve conflicts, and express their ideas clearly.

Engagement and Communication with Parents

At Mid-Cities Scholars, we believe that strong communication between parents and educators is key to a child's success. The MCS Foundations Curriculum is designed to be transparent and engaging for both children and parents. Each week, we post the Lesson Plan and Daily Schedule to BrightWheel, allowing parents to see exactly what their child will be learning and doing each day. This transparency ensures that parents are informed and can engage in meaningful conversations with their children about their daily activities.

FAQ

Q: What makes the MCS Foundations Curriculum unique?

A: MCS Foundations blends Montessori-inspired techniques with modern educational strategies tailored to each developmental stage. It emphasizes hands-on learning, critical thinking, and social-emotional development, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience.

Q: How does the curriculum support my child's development?

A: The curriculum is designed to support the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development of each child. Activities are structured to build foundational skills in literacy, math, science, and social interactions, all while encouraging independence and creativity.

Q: How do I stay informed about my child's progress?

A: Weekly lesson plans and daily updates are shared with parents through the BrightWheel app, ensuring you are always aware of your child's activities and progress.

Q: Are teachers trained to implement the curriculum effectively?

A: Absolutely. Our teachers are highly qualified, with degrees in early childhood education and specialized training in the MCS Foundations Curriculum. They continuously participate in professional development to ensure the best educational outcomes for your child.

Conclusion

The MCS Foundations Curriculum represents the future of early childhood education at Mid-Cities Scholars. By combining our years of experience with cutting-edge educational practices, we have created a curriculum that empowers children to become confident, curious, and capable learners. We are excited to share this journey with you and look forward to helping your child excel in every aspect of their development.

