

SOCIAL STUDIES

LENGTH OF TIME: one year

GRADE LEVEL: Kindergarten

COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

1. Become aware of their responsibilities as learners in the classroom and school community. (PA Std 5.2)
2. Recognize diversity in people and in their needs and roles at home, in school, and in the neighborhood - in the past as well as the present. (PA Std. 5.2, 7.4, 8.1)
3. Develop an increased awareness of their sense of place and connections with spatial relationships. (PA Std 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4)

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Civics and Government

5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Geography

- 7.1 Basic Geographic Literacy
- 7.2 The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.3 The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.4 The Interactions Between People and Places

History

8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

1. Actively participating in recognizing and reinforcing positive attributes of friendship and cooperation for themselves and their classmates through discussions, drawing, writing, and/or role playing. (Course Standard 1)
2. Understanding the concept of diversity of people of the past as well as of the present through discussions, drawing, writing, and/or role playing. (Course Standard 2)
3. Using a simple map to locate places or objects with the teacher's assistance. (Course Standard 3)

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The social studies curriculum in the kindergarten setting relies heavily on real life classroom and playground experiences that present themselves daily. Lessons in sharing, taking turns, responsible use of communal materials and equipment, resolving conflict and disagreements in peaceful, proactive ways, and making decisions are taught both when the need arises as well as in planned sessions. We endeavor to help children recognize the similarities and differences

between themselves and others and have an appreciation for diversity and the inherent worth of all people and cultures through discussions, books, pictures, foods, audio visual materials, dance, and song. Through study of times long ago, we will also help students to better understand the world in which we live. In addition, the program will help the students to explore and develop spatial concepts and their sense of place through activities which deal with direction and simple maps of the classroom and playground.

TITLES OF UNITS:

1. Family, Friends & Me
2. Seasons and Holidays
3. In Town
4. On a Farm
5. Land and Water Maps
6. United States and the World
7. Animals Around the World
8. Children Around the World

SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

1. Small/large group activities
2. Cooperative learning
3. Role playing
4. Read alouds
5. Dramatic play and construction centers (to encourage cooperation, problem solving and creativity)
6. Drawing and writing
7. Field trips
8. Current events
9. Teacher's guide for text and ancillary materials

MATERIALS:

1. Equipment and supplies to create permanent and flexible dramatic play centers, such as:
 - housekeeping area, grocery store, post office, puppet stage, fire department/fire truck, airport/airplane, etc.
 - toy kitchen appliances
 - old telephones, phone book, magazines, books
 - table and chairs
 - note pad and pencils
 - plastic dishes, cups, and bowls
 - empty food containers
 - dress-up items
 - toy cash register
 - play money or paper to create "pretend" money
 - pocketbooks, purses, wallets, handbags
 - prop boxes as needed for specific centers

2. Equipment and supplies to create construction centers such as: block corner, woodworking bench, sand/water table, open-ended construction toys, etc.
 - blocks of various sizes
 - workbench, woodworking tools, protective goggles
 - sand/water table, sand, plastic pails, shovels, rakes, containers
 - open-ended construction toy products, such as: Legos, Construx, Duplo, Toolo, etc.
3. Nystrom Social Studies kindergarten level teacher's edition, big book, posters, literature, enrichment planning guide, activity masters
4. Books and magazines
5. Charts and pictures

METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:

1. Cooperative learning groups
2. Specialist assistance - IST
3. Community volunteers
4. Field trips
5. Guest speakers/assemblies

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT:

Social studies portfolio pieces will be selected from classroom activities and cooperatively chosen by the student and the teacher.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Teacher observations
2. Developmental checklists
3. Student and peer evaluation
4. Nystrom unit assessments

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

Children will discuss, be read to, draw, and write about social studies activities. It is understood that in kindergarten many of the social studies activities are cross-curricular and based on the needs of the individual students.