

THE COOPERATIVE KID

Dear Kiddie Academy families,

As part of Kiddie Academy's ongoing commitment to incorporating the latest research and trends into our educational programs, we are pleased to introduce the new *I Can Do It* 3-year-old curriculum, arriving in academies by August 19, 2016. This is the final phase in a comprehensive approach to updating our preschool, pre-K and Kindergarten programs to offer standards-based curricula that meet or exceed the preschool standards set forth by each state where we have Kiddie Academy locations. Beginning with the release of a new 5-year-old curriculum in 2013, the *Literacy and Numeracy Essentials* manual in 2014, a new 4-year-old curriculum in 2015, and now the new 3-year-old curriculum this fall, we are confident that the *Life Essentials*® curriculum offers a solid foundation to prepare the students in our care for school and for life.

The *I Can Do It* curriculum now features Spanish activities, as well as a widely expanded S.T.E.M. approach. Every unit contains activities that focus on technology, engineering, and opportunities to extend the learning outdoors. Many tools have been added to assist teachers with planning and assessment, such as curriculum icons and content rubrics similar to those introduced in the *On My Way* 5-year-old curriculum in 2013, as well as learning objectives for each activity that are coded to indicate which of the new Kiddie Academy Preschool Standards are being met.

There are approximately 30 activities per unit. Teachers are prompted to include sequential math activities and writing, phonics, and fine motor activities from the *Literacy and Numeracy Essentials* manual, as well as activities from the *Character Education* manual and the *Kiddie Academy Music & More* program. By combining all resources, teachers should have an average of seven planned activities each day in addition to the learning centers where children are free to choose activities and materials of interest to them.

How many times have you seen your children cooperating in the classroom, sitting happily with others and listening intently to their teacher? Yet, somehow they won't even tolerate the idea of cooperating at home? We all know teachers are amazing creatures, especially to the 4 and under crowd, so how can parents form orderly households, just like the classroom?

Learning to compromise, listen, share and encourage are all parts of building good character. If you're looking to teach cooperation at home, here are a few tips from preschool teachers at Parenting.com:

- *Applaud good behavior.* Kids repeat behaviors that get attention so praise is key, especially for children who aren't in the cooperative phase.
- *Have predictable routines at home.* Kids know what to expect in the classroom, and the same should go for their routine at home. Decide on a few habits and stick to them: Everyone brushes their teeth before bedtime; snacks come only after everyone helps clear off the dinner table; etc.
- *Make cooperation fun!* If children refuse to do something, try turning it into a game. A scavenger hunt is a fun activity that requires collaboration and problem solving. Board and card games, such as Memory, often can be made into team games which foster cooperation and team strategies.
- *Warn of transitions.* Just like having anticipated routines at home, children need to know if you're switching gears too. If you need to leave the house early, let them know they have five more minutes of playtime before its time to go.

After children develop basic cooperation skills, give them opportunities to use these skills on their own. Creating roles that require skills such as following direction or taking turns is a great place to start. Maybe it's having siblings sort laundry together during chores, cooking together as a family, or perhaps tending to the family garden. No matter what the role is, you're providing your children with critical skills they'll need for the future...and that is a good thing.

In the month of September, Kiddie Academy teaches cooperation as part of their Character Education program. For more information, visit www.kiddieacademy.com.

Happy Birthday!

Alec V.	4th	Jack B.	11th
Owen M.	5th	Braxton & Sabrina	24th
Keira & Evleen	6th	Alexel M.	25th
Aiden F.	29th		

Kiddie Academy® of Castle Hills
2510 King Arthur Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75056
972.410.4675
kiddieacademy.com/castlehills

Teachable Moments

Separation anxiety is a natural part of development and how parents respond to it is essential to setting children up for successful future drop-off experiences at school, sleepovers, summer camp and beyond. Creating a reliable and consistent drop-off ritual helps kids make healthy and positive transitions while they learn to develop trust with both parents and teachers.

September Special Events

9/5 Have a safe and fun filled Labor day as we are closed in observation

9/6 Please join in the fun and grab a book. It's National read a book day!

9/9 PNO (Parents Night Out) *Wear red,white & blue

9/13 Scooby Doo's Birthday!

9/15 Make a Hat Day

9/16 National Play Dough Day

9/22 First Day of Autumn

9/23 Don't forget It's Pajama Day!

Photos of the Month



Working on number recognition daily. We can count!



Exploring our environment!

Parent Reminders –

-Weekly Tuition is due on Wednesday by end of business day.
-Monthly is due Thursday of the Month.

-Make sure your child has a change of clothes in case of spills or potty accident.