

Preschool (PK1, PK2, and PK3)



The NSU University School Preschool provides early care and education for children 18 months through 3 years in a safe, structured, and supportive environment. Teachers use the 7C Curriculum Framework to help children reach challenging but achievable goals in the domains of critical thinking, concept development, communication, cooperation, creativity, curiosity, and coordination.

Curriculum Highlights

- Teachers plan age-appropriate experiences that focus on language development, math concepts, letter recognition, phonemic awareness, and handwriting.
- Children's inventive ideas and interests inspire in-depth projects and investigations that engage their critical thinking and curiosity.
- Open-ended questions are used to invite children's participation in rich discussion with peers and adults.
- Indoor and outdoor materials and equipment support the development of fine- and gross-motor skills.
- Children participate in activities that foster independence and encourage positive social interactions with others.
- A range of assessment tools are used for planning, decision-making, and communicating with families.

The 7C Curriculum Framework has been the hallmark of the preschool program for many years. Starting at 18 months through age 3, children are provided with key experiences in the areas of:

- Critical Thinking where children use mathematical and scientific reasoning to classify, compare, experiment, and infer.
- Concept Development where children add to their knowledge base about biological science, life science, and social studies through active exploration of their world.
- Communication where children are encouraged to use language to investigate and explore, and to reflect on their experiences.
- Cooperation where children develop empathy, share ideas, forge friendships, and accomplish things together.
- Creativity where children engage in creative learning experiences designed to support inventiveness, imagination, and innovation.
- Curiosity where children have opportunities to ask questions, explore materials in novel and unexpected ways, and solve complex questions.
- Coordination where children master the fine and gross motor skills needed to accomplish increasingly complex physical tasks.

PK2 and PK3 Specials Classes

Spanish

Learning a second language at an early age provides students with many benefits that will last a lifetime, putting them at a significant advantage. It supports academic achievement, helps improve memory and cognitive function, and helps to develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. During their Spanish class, students are immersed in the Spanish language and culture and they learn through the use of interactive activities, games, and songs.

Music and Movement

Our music and movement class is designed to get students up and moving while learning important foundational skills. The program fosters a love of music and offers an engaging environment where students are introduced to and explore musical instruments, discover new sounds and rhythms, and express themselves and energize their mind and body. Teachers expose students to music, dances, and cultures and help them develop their social-emotional, sensory motor, and cognitive skills, such as self-regulation, self-esteem, patterning and sequencing, receptive language, phonemic awareness, and more!

Fitness and Health

Preschool students taking Fitness and Health develop an understanding and appreciation of physical exercise and nutrition through classroom activities that engage their bodies, minds, and spirits. In this class, students learn about healthy foods and will participate in activities that promote fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



Teaching Staff

All teachers have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and participate in ongoing, targeted professional development throughout the academic year where they are supported, challenged and inspired to design and introduce intellectually stimulating curriculum experiences. Teachers also develop respectful relationships with families and encourage two-way communication using interactive applications such as Class Dojo.

Prestigious NAEYC Accreditation

NSU University School's Preschool programs are accredited by Cognia, the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS), and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We join less than six percent of early childhood programs nationally and two percent locally that meet the NAEYC standards that define exemplary educational practice. As the only university-based NAEYC accredited early learning center in Broward County, the faculty and staff of NSU University School Preschool continually work to ensure all children receive the highest quality early care and education. In addition to Cognia, FCIS, and NAEYC accreditation, the NSU University School Preschool is proud to be a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the Educational Records Bureau, The College Board, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools, the National Association of Laboratory Schools, the Independent School

Experiential Educational Network, the National Coalition of Campus Children's Centers, and the American Camping Association.

NSU Connection

NSU University School's Preschool, located on the campus of Nova Southeastern University, provides our students and teachers with a wide range of resources and opportunities. Preschool staff work closely with the NSU School of Psychology who offer occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech and language therapy to children who may benefit from these services. Our administrative staff is continually researching best practices in the area of child development and early education in an effort to bring those ideas to the forefront in the Preschool classrooms. Our connection to NSU also provides a number of hands-on learning experiences for students and as they move on to the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools. There's much for them to look forward to including visits to the Alvin Sherman Library, hearing from guest speakers, and taking virtual field trips to places on campus like the Oceanography Center and campus gardens, internships and fellowships with NSU experts, mock trials in the NSU courtroom, and more! As parents, you will have access to NSU experts in a variety of early childhood fields. Our connection to NSU and the experiential learning opportunities that are made possible through this partnership are all part of what we call "the USchool experience."

Program Schedule Options

PK1 (18 months - 23 months)

8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. *Half Day*

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Full Day*

7:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. *Full Day + Before and After Care*

PK2 (24 months by Sept. 1)

8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. *Half Day*

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Full Day*

7:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. *Full Day + Before and After Care*

PK3 (age 3 by Sept. 1)

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Full Day*

7:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. *Full Day + Before and After Care*

Preschool (Junior Kindergarten)

The Junior Kindergarten program offers a student-centered, safe, and caring environment where young minds can flourish and grow, and where students' individual needs come first. Passionate and well-qualified educators guide and mentor students in an environment that facilitates collaboration, active learning, and personalized instruction. Our age-appropriate, college preparatory curriculum includes instruction in language, reading, and literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, and the arts. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to take a more in-depth look at the topics below on a weekly, rotating schedule:

Science and Research

Students are introduced to the scientific method as they engage in a wide range of focused explorations, tasks, and challenges. They learn how to observe, question, hypothesize, predict, test, and, based on evidence, draw conclusions. The goal is to nurture a sense of inquiry and wonder in students and to support the development of critical and analytical skills.

Environmental Science

Students develop an appreciation and understanding of the natural world through hands-on explorations in our 'living labs' that include observing, identifying, and tracking weather patterns; planting and caring for the school garden; creating a butterfly/wildlife habitat; and, importantly, investigating the critical role they play in making informed and responsible decisions about environmental issues such as sustainability.

Mindful Learning

Using the evidence-based MindUp curriculum, students learn key brain-focused practices to support healthier and happier lives both at school and at home. Carefully planned, engaging exercises help students improve their emotional and physical well-being by teaching them how to monitor and control their executive function. Acceptance, compassion, focus, confidence, and happiness thrive in a mindful learning environment.



Fine and Digital Arts

Students engage in a range of artistic endeavors from exploring the techniques and media used by famous and not-so-famous artists, to interacting with contemporary technologies such as digital storytelling and stop-motion animation. The opportunity to manipulate diverse materials and media in structured and unstructured ways helps students expand their creative horizons and question assumptions about what constitutes art.

Create and Construct

Students develop engineering habits of mind as they examine human-made inventions and design their own using the 'Think It, Draw It, Build It' process. Hands-on design challenges that invite novel solutions to real-world problems are introduced and explored. Ethical factors are also considered as students reflect on how their work will benefit, rather than harm their world.

Innovation Lab

The Innovation Lab brings learning to life, sparking interest and excitement in STEAM-related fields. Through hands-on, interactive activities and experiential methods, students explore the concepts of engineering, programming, robotics, and technology. Collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking skills are enhanced with project-based, innovative learning. It is designed to stimulate curiosity and drive learning through inquiry and observation.

Specials Rotation

Children will also participate in a special class rotation each week that includes:

Spanish

Learning a second language at an early age provides students with many benefits that will last a lifetime, putting them at a significant advantage. It supports academic achievement, helps improve memory and cognitive function, and helps to develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. During their Spanish class, students are immersed in the Spanish language and culture and they learn through the use of interactive activities, games, and songs.

Music and Movement

Our music and movement class is designed to get students up and moving while learning important foundational skills. The program fosters a love of music and offers an engaging environment where students are introduced to and explore musical instruments, discover new sounds and rhythms, and express themselves and energize their mind and body. Teachers expose students to music, dances, and cultures and help them develop their social-emotional, sensory motor, and cognitive skills, such as self-regulation, self-esteem, patterning and sequencing, receptive language, phonemic awareness, and more!

Fitness and Health

Preschool students taking Fitness and Health develop an understanding and appreciation of physical exercise and nutrition through classroom activities that engage their bodies, minds, and spirits. In this class, students learn about healthy foods and will participate in activities that promote fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

French

Students will be introduced to the French language and culture through the use of stories, songs, hands-on activities, and games. We know that exposure to other languages promotes empathy and



understanding, and is an important element in the development of global citizens. Therefore, teachers combine a multitude of learning modalities in an effort to engage and excite students as they learn about cultures beyond their own.

Character Education

A cornerstone of our school that truly sets us apart is our commitment to character development. Activities are designed to develop children's self-esteem, enhance their self-concept, and foster positive feelings towards learning, as well as acceptance of others. Cooperation, integrity, determination, responsibility, and respect are some of the principles we value as a school community and that we promote in character education lessons. Play in the classroom and outside provides opportunities for children to interact socially with one another, solve problems, and resolve conflict. Our school provides a safe and nurturing environment where children grow self-confidence and develop the social skills necessary to build positive friendships and become good citizens in and out of the classroom.