

Nursery



The Nursery Programme

Our ISA Nursery Programme is a comprehensive approach to early learning through play and open ended experiences so children can enjoy being engaged, inquisitive and independent learners. The programme introduces children to learning in an educational setting and prepares them for enrolment in the Primary Years Programme.

The Nursery Programme is designed for two age groups: two year olds and three year olds. Children can join the Nursery the day they turn two and stay for two years in the Nursery. Children joining the school year they turn three stay for one year in the Nursery. The school year runs September 1st - August 31st.

The programme is based on multi-cultural developmentally appropriate practices with an emphasis on a child's social-emotional development and well-being.



Through free-choice and small group experiences, children will begin to explore friendships with children their own age, experience playing in different situations and develop a sense of belonging in the class. Over the year, they will begin to join in with self-care routines and will learn how to separate from parents and other caregivers to develop positive relationships with adults outside of their immediate family circle.

Children are not expected to be toilet trained to join the programme. ISA provides regular changing times and appropriate changing facilities. Once a child is fully toilet trained at home then they will be able to use the child-sized toilets inside the Nursery unit.



The Value of Play

“Play is the highest form of research” Albert Einstein

Through play, children will explore their immediate environment and begin to make sense of the world around them. The Nursery Programme at ISA also values outdoor play and therefore children are encouraged to spend some time everyday outdoors, all year round, to fully experience the different sorts of weather. There are opportunities for indoor and outdoor learning, engagement in sensory exploration activities and opportunities to develop creative and motor skills in different ways.

There are role-play opportunities for children to develop their communication skills and story-times where language will be continually extended. The language-rich environment provides multiple experiences for each child’s verbal and non-verbal communication skills to grow in both English and, when possible, their home language. There will be an emphasis on how each child expresses their needs, wants and preferences. Your child will have opportunities to listen to others and share ideas in whole class and group situations.

Our Nursery is a self-contained unit with its own outside area, play area, sleep room and bathroom that the children access throughout the morning. All children in the Nursery Programme have access to the additional learning areas in the Early Childhood centre: the library, the gym, the nursery atelier, music room and teaching kitchen; usually in small groups with their teacher or assistant.



Meaningful provocations and experiences engaging the child

Environment

Play

Physical well being

- Developing coordination in small and large movements
- Actively exploring the environment
- Engaging in sensory exploration
- Moving around and using objects safely
- Beginning to join in with self-care routines

Active learning

Creative thinking

Emotional well being

- Developing a sense of belonging
- Developing a strong sense of self
- Developing positive relationships with adults and children
- Recognising own feelings
- Responding to appropriate boundaries
- Developing consideration for others
- Experiencing and seeking closeness

Communication

- Expressing needs, wants and preferences
- Interacting with others, verbally and non-verbally
- Communicating ideas through play
- Indicating choices
- Listening and attending to others

Happy, healthy curious child

Making connections

Playing and exploring

Understanding the world

- Showing interest and curiosity in people
- Showing interest and curiosity in their environment
- Making meaning
- Engaging in exploration and role play

Safe, caring, relationships nurturing indoor and outdoor learning environments



A day in the Nursery



In the Nursery there is a ratio of one adult to 6 children and a maximum of 20 children. The programme is overseen by a full-time nursery teacher who carefully guides the pedagogical practices and supervises learning for all of the children. The team works closely with families to ensure open communication and strong collaboration bridging the child's home and school life.

A typical day begins with arrival to the Nursery, greeting the adults in the room and settling in, followed by separation from the parent or caregiver. We offer flexible drop-off times to allow families with children in other grades to deliver siblings to different sections of the school. All children should have arrived in class by 09:00 (10:00 on Fridays).

There is a welcome time, where the children gather together. Following this, the children have the opportunity to explore different types of learning areas and engage in play alongside their classmates. Children have the opportunity to eat a snack during their morning routine.

To provide variety each day, there is a focused activity available, such as visits to the library, gym or kitchen as well as open-ended learning opportunities both within and outside of the classroom.

At the end of the morning, the children gather together for a group activity such as singing, playing a game or sharing a story.

Lunch

The children all sit and eat lunch together with the adults inside the community room. There is a choice of a hot lunch provided by school or bringing a packed lunch from home, so that you can provide food which is healthy and that your child likes to eat. Those families that wish to provide warm lunch from home can send in a thermos or can choose a school lunch. Please also pack a water bottle every day for your child. The adults encourage children to eat their lunch.

Afternoon activities

Following lunch, the adult assists all the children in getting ready for a rest time. This includes a nappy/diaper changing time. Each child has their own bed to lie in, and the room lights will be dimmed to enable the children to sleep or rest in their own space. This is an integral part of the programme for children to sleep or rest and have a quiet moment.

After sleeping, the children are slowly woken up and gathered together for a sharing of a fruit snack and outdoor play. Reading of a story marks the end of the school day. The children then get ready to say goodbye to the class and are collected by their parents or care-giver. We encourage parents to collect children from the Nursery before older siblings. The Nursery is open from 15:20 to accommodate families that need to collect older siblings from their homeroom classes. All children should be collected by 15:30 from the Nursery or 15:15 to accommodate families that need to collect older siblings from their homeroom classes.

Nursery facility features

- 1 community play room
- 1 room divided into sensory-art space and a sleeping area
- A self-contained outside play area
- A self-contained toilet
- Nappy/diaper changing facilities in both rooms
- Bed provided for rest time.

Access to additional learning areas:
Early Years gym, teaching kitchen,
music room and library.



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