



June 2019 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Odyssey Nursery
Khalifa!



Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that the academic school year is almost over. Every year, we bid a large number of our children goodbye after years of slowly watching them grow and bloom just in time for transitioning into Big School. We will miss their hugs, kisses and conversations of every morning, lunch and afternoon. We thank all of our parents for entrusting us with their precious possessions. We hope that we have been up to your expectations in sharing this responsibility of helping your child appreciate play as a tool for learning.

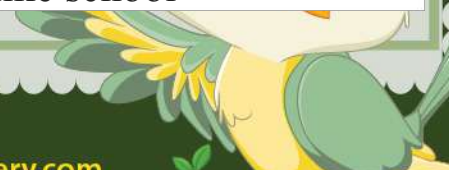
Why Play Is Important in Preschool Classrooms

If you want your preschooler to be ready for the academic rigors ahead, forget about the curriculum. Instead, look for a classroom that lets children learn the way they do best. By Leslie Garisto Pfaff from [Parents Magazine](#)

On a typical day at a private New York City Preschool, the students are very busy. During reading periods, they work on phonics and blended sounds and practice writing upper- and lower-case letters. Math lessons focus on addition, subtraction, and graphing. And audio recordings help them hone their comprehension and pronunciation during French lessons.

If this seems intense for 4-year-olds, you haven't visited a typical early-learning program lately. Greater academic demands, driven by our testing- and achievement-obsessed culture, have trickled down to the youngest students. A growing number of pre-K programs all around the country are designed to give kids a one-size-fits-all jump start in language, social studies, mathematics, and more. Preschool,

in other words, is starting to look a whole lot like school



What's wrong with parents picking programs like this to give their young child an edge? Plenty, according to many early-childhood specialists. "For kids under 5, play is the foundation for creativity, constructive problem solving, self-regulation, and learning as a whole," says Susan Linn, cofounder of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood and author of *The Case for Make Believe*.

Play also helps preschoolers master the skills they'll need for academic subjects later on. Storytime advances pre-reading skills like rhyming, wordplay, and the ability to follow a plot. A simple activity like playing with soap bubbles can stimulate science learning, while building with blocks establishes a foundation for understanding geometry. Repetitive play (such as putting a puzzle together, taking it apart, and then reassembling it) hones motor acuity, while unstructured group play boosts kids' social skills.

A study conducted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology illustrates free play's learning potential. Researchers had preschoolers try out an interactive toy that could squeak, light up, play music, and more. They showed one group how to make the toy squeak but gave no instructions to the other group. In the end, the undirected kids figured out everything the toy could do simply by experimenting with it, while the directed ones never got it to do anything other than squeak. This suggests that young children are better off experimenting and discovering on their own rather than being shown and told.

"Stressing formal learning can turn off preschoolers, many of whom aren't physically ready to hold a pencil or sit still and complete worksheets," says Lorayne Carbon, director of the Early Childhood Center at Sarah Lawrence College, in Bronxville, New York. Plus, an early academic approach doesn't seem to improve classroom performance. A study from the University of North Florida, in Jacksonville, found that fourth-graders who have attended play-based preschools outperform fellow students both academically and socially. And a study published in *Early Childhood Research & Practice* found clear links between pretend plays and enhanced language ability. Your child's future success in school doesn't hinge on your enrolling him in a pre-K that teaches him to add and subtract or know the chemical formula for water. It's more productive to find a program that lets him have fun as he learns. Follow these steps to find one



Look at Self-Descriptions

Search for a school that bills itself as "play based" or "developmentally appropriate," both of which feature unstructured activity as part of the school's educational philosophy. Other designations that indicate an emphasis on play are Waldorf (organized according to the principles of pioneering philosopher and educator Rudolf Steiner), Reggio Emilia (an approach that lets kids help set the curriculum), and Bank Street (which stresses art, dramatic play, music, movement, and sensory experiences).

Step Outside

Preschoolers need a chance to play outdoors every day, not only to get fresh air but also because it fosters cooperation, learning, and creativity, and sparks an interest in the natural world. Make sure the outdoor area provides a variety of opportunities to run, reach, climb, and explore. One thing Abigail Woodworth, from Yardley, Pennsylvania, likes best about her son Leo's preschool is its location on several wooded acres. Twice a day, rain or shine, the children go outside. "Leo comes home every afternoon with a pocketful of treasures, such as leaves, rocks, and pinecones," Woodworth says. "He's learned the names of different trees and clouds, why it rains, and so much more, simply by going out and exercising his curiosity."

Stock up on outdoor toys and sports equipment

Ask Questions A good one to start with is, "What does a typical school day look like?" Ideally, about a third of it should be devoted to free play, during which the kids get to choose their own games, materials, and playmates, says Alexandra Figueras-Daniel, research-project coordinator at the National Institute for Early Education Research, a nonprofit in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Some time should also be devoted to teacher-led explorations. Find out whether the school follows a strict curriculum and whether the instructors can base activities on students' interests.

Look for Red Flags

You don't want to see an abundance of computers or TVs. If you spot them, inquire how they're used and how often. "Screens can interfere with hands-on play," says Linn. The same goes for electronic toys that do much of the thinking for a child. Also check out the artwork on the walls. "If the paintings and drawings look similar to each other, as if they were copied, or the projects appear to have been constructed from a kit, this program may not encourage creativity," adds Lin

While it may sound counterintuitive, too much order in the classroom can also be a warning sign. If most of the materials are neatly stored in drawers and on shelves, they may not be readily accessible to the kids.



NEWSLETTER

Nikki Wills, a mom in Chandler, Arizona, knew she'd found the right place for her daughter when the director warned parents not to send their kid to school in outfits they didn't want to get ruined. She was sending the right message about play-based learning: "These kids are here to get messy and to have fun."

Get the Lay of the Land

The materials that make up the classroom, and the way they're set up, can tell you a lot about a pre-K's priorities. "When you visit a school, check that there are enough materials to keep children engaged for a three- to six-hour day," advises Figueras-Daniel. Do you see lots of low-tech toys, such as blocks, dolls, puppets, musical instruments, and simple cars and trucks? Are there costumes and play stations -- a mini kitchen, a pretend classroom -- that encourage imaginative play? Look for water and sand tables (which help children learn about science by pouring, measuring, and observing) and nesting and stacking toys (these promote pre-math skills and hone fine motor coordination). Is there a generous selection of books? How about arts-and-crafts materials such as crayons, paints, fabric, feathers, clay, scissors, and glue?

Small details often make a big difference: On her first visit to her kids' preschool, Wills was struck by what a teacher told her about the coloring station. "She said they place the cup of pens to the left, because a child reaches for it and then moves naturally to the right to draw, which helps reinforce left-to-right reading," Wills explains. "So the kids are mastering a pre-reading skill without even realizing it."

Watch the Kids

When Kathy Sucich, of Framingham, Massachusetts, was searching for a preschool for her oldest child, she was surprised by what she heard (or, rather, didn't hear) after walking into a classroom. "It was playtime, but the kids were almost silent," recalls Sucich. By contrast, when she peeked into the school that all three of her kids have now attended, "I heard laughing and saw kids playing and running around," she says. Look for signs that students are truly engaged in what they're doing.

Playful Lessons

When your child is leaping through puddles or wielding an imaginary wand, she's not just having a good time; she's setting the stage for learning. Check out the educational benefits of some common preschool activities.

Sorting

Grouping buttons by color or stocking the shelves of a pretend supermarket by food category helps kids learn to recognize patterns, a key component of mathematics.

Water play

When they drop ice cubes into a tub of warm water, pour liquids from one container to another, or play with the stream from a hose or a faucet, children are figuring out flow and motion, two basic physics concepts.



Congratulations to our dear Ms. Alu for her dedication and hard work. Nominated by Adek as one of the leading teachers for positive encouragement, for encouraging conceptual understanding and higher order thinking in all her practices in and out of the classroom!



We love you Ms. Alu!!!

Just a couple of reminders regarding the last couple of weeks of school:

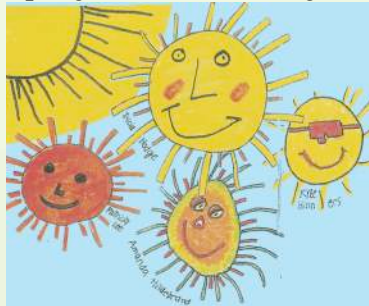
- 1- Tuition for Term 3 needs to be completed before **June 15.**
- 2- We are now starting to receive the Security Deposits for September enrollments. Please do not leave it to the last minute since we are struggling with finding places for our waiting list and existing students.
- 3- Last day of class for all preschool classes will be **Thursday, June 27, and transitioning into the summer course.**
- 4- End of Term Reports: **Thursday 20 June, 2019**
- 5- **Graduation ceremony** will take place in **Mafriq Hotel** on **Saturday, 22 June, 2019**
- 6- **Parent-teacher meetings: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday 23, 24, 25 June**

Don't forget: PLAY OUTSIDE!

Summer Weather

Please make sure your child comes to school with a brimmed hat, his messiest clothes & sun screen.

We play outside every day!





You are cordially invited to our 3rd Odyssey Nursery

Graduation Ceremony

On Saturday, 22nd June 2019 at
Al Mafraq Hotel Abu Dhabi (Auditorium)

10:00am - 12:00 pm

Brunch will be served
Children to be at the hotel at 9:00 am sharp



Odyssey Nursery Calendar 2019-2020

Term 1 - September 2019		
AUG/ SEPT	SUNDAY 25TH August 2019	INSET DAY FOR TEACHERS
	MONDAY 26TH August 2019	INSET DAY FOR TEACHERS
	TUESDAY 27TH August 2019	INSET DAY FOR TEACHERS
	WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY 28, 29TH, 31ST August 2019	PREPERATIONS OF CLASSROOMS
	SUNDAY, 1st, MONDAY 2ND September, 2019	First day of term for new children- half day 8-11am
	TUESDAY 3RD September 2019	First day of term for new children (Regular timings)
	THURSDAY, 5th September 2019	CURRICULUM/ORIENTATION EVENING 4:00PM-5:00 PM
NOVEMBER	SUNDAY, 10TH November 2018	Prophet's Birthday NURSERY CLOSED*
DECEMBER	SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, 1ST, 2nd, 3rd December 2019	National Day Holiday NURSERY CLOSED*
	Thursday 12TH December 2019	Last day of term
	Sunday 15 th Decembe, 2019r – Thursday 2ND January 2020	Winter Course
	WEDNESDAY 25 th December 2020	Christmas Day (NURSERY CLOSED)
	WEDNESDAY 1 st January 2020	New Years Day (NURSERY CLOSED)
Term 2 - January 2020		
JANUARY	SUNDAY 5 th January 2020	First day of term
MARCH	THURSDAY 26TH March 2020	Last day of term
	SUNDAY 29 th March – 9th April 2020	Spring Course
Term 3 - Summer Term 2020		
APRIL	SUNDAY 12 th April 2020	First Day of Term 3 - Children Return
MAY	SAT- TUESDAY , MAY, 23, 24, 25, 2020	EID EL FITR NURSERY CLOSED*
JUNE/JULY	THURSDAY, 2ND JULY 2020	last day of term
	SUNDAY, 7TH JULY, 2020 THURSDAY, 28 th AUGUST, 2020	Summer Course

*Islamic Observances are subject to lunar calendar - Actual dates to be confirmed

** Subject to Public Holiday Announcement



HAPPY HEALTHY AND ACTIVE

**ODYSSEY NURSERY KHALIFA
SUMMER COURSE**

30th June to 29th August, 2019



Beat the Summer boredom

Week 1 - Movie: June 30 - July 4

Week 2 - Circus: 7-11 July

Week 3 - Art: 14-18 July

Week 4 - Slime/Science: 21-25 July

Week 5 - Princess / Prince - July 28 - Aug 1

Week 6 - Zoo: 4-8 Aug

Week 7 - Fitness: 18-22 Aug

Week 8 - Nature:
24-29 Aug



Grab your 7 weeks early bird discount



Khalifa City A
02 665 5994 / 056 484 5510
www.odysseynursery.com

Part of **كيدل فرست غروب**
kids first group

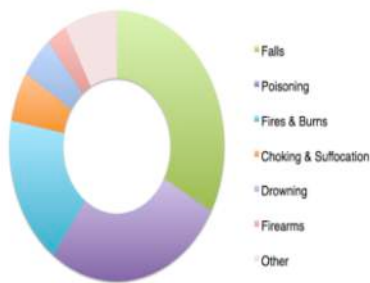


**Bring your family & friends and
receive an exclusive discount**

June 2019

Play is the way

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	32	33	34		1
2 LAUNCH OF THE RECYCLED MATERIAL FASHION DESIGN National Day of Italy	3	4	5 EID- EL- FITR NO SCHOOL International Environment Day National Day of Denmark	6 EID- EL- FITR NO SCHOOL National Day of Sweden	7 EID- EL- FITR NO SCHOOL	8 EID- EL- FITR NO SCHOOL
9 Teachers appreciation	10 Teachers appreciation	11 Teachers appreciation	12 National Day of Philippines	13	14	15
16	17 National Day of Iceland	18 Yas Waterworld trip Twiglets, Arabic	19 -Yas Waterworld trip Pebbles 1, 2, 2A	20 <i>Report card distribution</i>	21	22 GRADUATION END OF YEAR PARTY- 10:00- 12:00 pm Al Mafreq Hotel
23 PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING 12-30-4:00 PM	24 PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING 12-30-4:00 PM	25 PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING 12-30-4:00 PM	26	27 END OF TERM 3 CELEBRATIONS FASHION SHOW	28	29



Common Childhood Accidents

Accidents happen in childhood, despite your best childproofing and safety efforts. Here's a list of some common childhood emergencies and accidents and the places they're likely to happen.

- **Burns**, are one of the most common childhood accidental injuries. These include sunburns, electrical burns, and burns caused by stoves, lamps, matches, lighted cigarettes, and fireplaces. Other dangers include hot liquids and steam from a pan, cup, or hot water heater. Burns from bathwater are also common, especially if your water heater is set higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - **Poisoning** from ingesting medicines, shampoo, aftershave, perfume, vitamins, cleaning products, and from exposure to gas appliances such as stoves and heaters.
 - **Drowning** is a leading cause of accidental death among children, and it can happen in bathtubs, toilets, buckets, swimming pools, and areas of open water.
 - **Head injuries** caused by falls from highchairs, beds, furniture, stairs, slippery floors, and play equipment.
 - Choking on food, toys, batteries, bottle caps, coins, balloons, or other small objects.
 - **Strangulation** caused by necklaces, drawstrings on clothes, baby headbands, strings, ties, and ribbons as well as cords on toys, household appliances, window blinds, and other fixtures.
 - **Nose injuries** caused by running into stationary objects, falling on a hard surface, or deflecting a flying toy (or the fist or foot of another child).
 - **Items stuck in a nostril or ear**, like small stones, chewable vitamins, pebbles, and peas.
 - **Cuts and scratches** caused by sharp fingernails (either your baby's own or some other child's), pets, sharp objects (like knives, appliances with blades, and glass or other breakables), sharp edges of furniture, and sticks and other pointed objects outside.
 - **Fractures and sprains** caused by hard falls and, as your child enters the toddler years, by playing energetically. Children tend to break bones more easily than adults because they have soft areas near the end of each bone called growth plates.
 - **Contusions**—bruises under the skin—caused by bumps and falls.
 - **A pulled elbow**, caused by picking up your child by one arm, jerking his arm forcefully, or swinging him around by the arms. The forearm bone can slip out of the elbow joint and sometimes slip back without medical attention.
 - **Eye injuries** caused by dust, sand, chemical sprays, or other types of foreign matter in the child's eye.
 - **Falls** from infant seats, highchairs, changing tables, walkers, and stairs.
- Places to watch out for:
- **Cribs**, which can be a risk for pinched fingers and limbs, strangulation (from crib toys that have string, cords, or ribbons), and suffocation under blankets and pillows. Drop rails can also suffocate and strangle, and crib bumpers are associated with SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome).
 - **Cars** with improperly installed car seats, or when a child is accidentally left in a locked car, which causes dangerous overheating.
 - **Windows**, which children can fall from or get strangled in cords.
 - **Bathrooms**, which are the main places for slips on wet surfaces, bumps and scrapes on bathroom fixtures, and cuts from shaving devices. A baby can drown in an inch of water, so be vigilant when your child is in the bath and be sure to keep the toilet off limits (unless you're supervising)

