

A Beka

General Information

Introduction

Preschool age children can learn. We often greatly underestimate what young children can learn. Small Children are curious; they are born with a desire to learn. As you follow this curriculum, you will be thrilled to see the children learn the basics in reading, writing, and numbers.

This curriculum will enable teachers to teach successfully a quality academic program. A Beka will establish routines and proper classroom habits that will make it possible for teachers to accomplish more during the year. This will enable children to learn and become excited about school.

Several Keys will give greater success in teaching preschool aged children:

1. Be consistent. Children feel secure in knowing you are consistent, that you can be counted on.
2. Praise, encouragement, and genuine concern will go far in motivating children to achieve.
3. Practice and repetition are essential. White board games to help motivate the children and make learning fun.
4. Expect them to be able to do what is planned for the day. They will do what you expect of them.
5. Enjoy teaching; be enthusiastic! If you enjoy teaching, the children will enjoy learning.

Preschool aged children can learn. They want to learn. Enjoy the challenge of teaching them.

Bible

Bible time is the most important half hour of the school day and by its very nature should be the most interesting subject. The A Beka Book materials give a successful method for presenting the Bible through the telling of the stories of the Old and New Testaments. Bible time includes the Pledge to the Flag, a patriotic song, Bible songs and choruses, memory verses, prayer time, and the Bible lesson.

Classroom Habits

Appropriate classroom habits and procedures produce an orderly classroom conducive to efficient learning. During the early lessons, the daily plans allow time for the practice and reinforcement of these habits. Character Development Visuals and Health and Safety Visuals can be used to promote positive behavior.

Skills Development

Skills Development time is fun time set aside to strengthen listening, fine motor coordination, eye-hand coordination, visual perception, and writing skills. The children will enjoy the wide variety of activities.

Phonics and Reading

Using the simple, logical phonics system, children in **K4** *can* learn to read. They begin by mastering the vowels and consonants and their sounds through enjoyable classroom teaching. Forming blends and reading simple words comes naturally after that.

During the second semester, children continue learning phonics and start reading aloud in reading circles. Small, colorful books give them incentive to work hard in reading. Children can see their progress as they finish each book and proudly take it home to read again and again. The phonics and reading learned in K4 can help children in following years as they expand their knowledge in many areas.

The following material shows what will be covered in the **K4** study of phonics:

Basic Phonics Steps

1. **Learn to recognize the short vowels** (and their sounds) by the use of flashcards. The letters *a, e, i, o,* and *u* are called vowels. Teachers will use these flashcard word-picture associations:

Short Vowels

- a apple
- e elephant
- i inchworm
- o ostrich
- u umbrella

2. **Learn to recognize the consonants** (and their sounds) by the use of flashcards. All the letters of the alphabet except the vowels are called consonants. Teachers will use these flashcard word-picture associations:

b bell c cat d dog f fox g goat h horse j jar k kite
l lamp m milk n nest p pig q queen r ring s sun
t table v violin w wagon x fox, box, ax y yarn z zebra

3. **Learn to blend two letters together.** The students blend the sound of a consonant and a vowel. The teachers will begin teach the children to make blends while they are learning to recognize the consonants.
4. **Learn to sound one-vowel words.** Children need to learn and master this rule: **When there is one vowel in a word, it usually says its short sound; mark it with a smile.** The teachers will teach the children to add a final consonant such as *t* or *d* to a blend by using the ladder method. The teachers will teach *b, d, g, l, m, p, s,* and *t* as final consonants. Later on, final consonants should be mixed on the ladders to assure the forming of a word.
5. **Learn the sounds of the long vowels.** Teachers will teach the long-vowel sounds with flash cards. Use the following word-picture associations:
Long Vowels
a acorn
e eagle
l ice cream
o open
u uniform
6. **Learn to sound two-vowel words.** Teachers will teach this rule: **When there are two vowels in a word, the first vowel says its long sound, and the second vowel is silent.**

Reading Circles

Reading circles will begin later in the school year with a general introduction involving the entire class. The lessons in which the reading circles begin give further details.

The following reading habits will enable the children to accomplish much more during reading time:

1. Sit with good posture.
2. Hold the book correctly.
3. Learn how to turn pages quickly.
4. Read accurately.
5. Read with expression. Think about what is read. Reading is “talk” written down.

Handwriting

K4 children are excited to learn to read and write “like Mom and Dad.” They learn to write each of the small letters of the alphabet first. Then they find that it is easy to join most of the letters and that they can write blends and words. Next, they learn to connect letters that may be a little more challenging. Later, many of the major capital letters are introduced. ***K4** lays the foundation for learning the basic cursive writing strokes. These skills will be perfected as students go on into K5, first, and second grade.*

Students learn cursive writing in a program that is correlated with their phonics. As they learn the sound / name of each vowel and consonant, they learn to write the lower case letters in writing time. Students practice the letters in writing class in their *Cursive ABC Writing Tablet*. *Cursive Writing with Phonics K4* will be used later in the year for seatwork during reading circles. Both writing books are coordinated with the phonics program.

Numbers

In **K4**, children learn to recognize and understand the concepts of numbers. By the end of the year; they will be able to count from 1 to 100, recognize 1-20, distinguish *before* and *after* numbers, and answer simple combinations.

Language Development

Interesting material about animals, people, and places make this a very enjoyable time for the children. *Language Development Cards* will encourage children to think and will also strengthen their vocabulary and language skills.