

Palms Day School
A SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

Curriculum Overview

Celebrate the *magic* of play...

At Palms Day School, we are committed to providing a high-quality educational experience for children from birth through ten years of age. Our educational approach is rooted in a deep understanding of how children learn and develop best. Here are the key principles that guide our curriculum and teaching philosophy.

**PlayBased
Learning**

**Reggio
Inspired
Studios**

**Holistic
Development**

**Qualified
Supervisors
and
Educators**

**Best
Practices**



Philosophy

Palms Day School

...and develop a love of learning.

PlayBased Learning

We believe that children learn best through carefully supervised play with developmentally appropriate educational materials. Play is the foundation of childhood learning, fostering creativity, problem-solving skills, and social development.

Reggio Inspired Studios

Our learning studios are designed with the child in mind and inspired to reflect the Reggio Emilia Philosophy, which encourages child-led project-based learning. This approach values the child as capable, resourceful, and rich in potential, and it guides our teaching pedagogy.

Holistic Development

Our curriculum and activities are structured to promote the holistic development of each child. This includes emotional, social, intellectual, creative, and physical growth. We recognize that these aspects are interconnected and essential for a child's overall well-being.

Qualified Supervisors and Educators

Palms Day School is staffed with a team of qualified and dedicated supervisors, facilitators, and educators. They play a crucial role in creating a nurturing and stimulating learning environment.

Best Practices

We continually stay up to date with the best practices in the field of early childhood education. Our educators are trained to incorporate the latest research and methodologies to ensure that every child reaches their full potential.

Curriculum

Child Led Learning through inquiry is the epitome of our Palms' curriculum.

Palms Day School goes beyond conventional child care. We are committed to partnering with you on your child's learning journey, aiming to make it not only educational but also joyful and fruitful. We understand that when children feel secure and happy, they are in the optimal state to learn and flourish to their full potential. Our focus is on creating an environment that supports both the well-being and educational growth of your child.

Palms Day School takes pride in offering a blended curriculum that is carefully crafted to guide and challenge every type of learner. Our approach is designed to cater to diverse learning styles, ensuring that each student receives the support and stimulation they need to thrive academically and personally. Through this inclusive curriculum, we strive to create an educational environment that fosters both individual growth and collective excellence.

Our curriculum for Palms Day School children is thoughtfully crafted to provide a rich and holistic learning experience.

“By embracing play-based learning, we inspire every child to unleash their imaginations and transform into anything they aspire to be.”

-Palms Founders



A curriculum with wonder in mind.



Palms Day School

Inquiry Explained

In traditional early childhood classrooms, children receive information through structured activities with set “right” and “wrong” methods for completion. Worksheets are common, and activities are often organized by subject, such as reading or art centers.

In Inquiry Based Learning:

- The children wonder and ask questions.
- The educator takes into consideration the children’s interests when planning activities.
- An investigation is started when a group of children have a persisting interest.

In contrast, inquiry-based learning emphasizes exploration and experimentation through what are known as play invitations.



The Three Pillars of *Inquiry and Investigation*

PILLAR 1: A CENTRAL CONCEPT

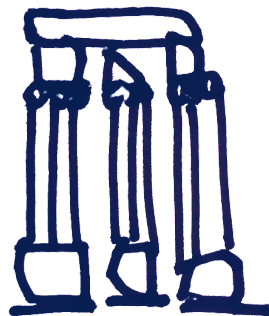
Each Investigation revolves around a central, overarching concept that is open-ended, allowing children's interests to guide exploration. This concept can be applied across various domains—art, nature, blocks, science, and more. A strong concept also connects to children's everyday experiences.

PILLAR 2: INQUIRY TOPICS

A solid central concept leads to numerous ways for children to investigate. We refer to these as Inquiry Topics, represented by questions or wonderings, forming the “Web of Possibilities” in each pack. These questions help uncover children's interests and prior knowledge related to the central concept.

PILLAR 3: REAL EXPERIENCES

The inquiry process thrives on actual experiences related to the central concept and Inquiry Topics. Each “Web of Possibilities” highlights Inquiry Topics that provide accessible, real-life experiences for children. Young learners engage best when they can explore what they’re investigating in a playful, hands-on manner.



Ben
Age 5

Curriculum Overview

Our Educational Foundations are based on a blended approach of *Inquiring Curriculum*, *Intentional Teaching Methods*, and *Inspiring Learning Environments*.

Inquiry ...

Children have an innate curiosity. By using thought-provoking questions and prompts, educators can help them connect ideas and explore countless learning opportunities. Integrating inquiry-based learning into the classroom allows educators to observe children actively engaging and directing their own educational journey. In this approach, educators serve as facilitators, posing guiding questions and supplying essential materials. Curiosity is documented through anecdotal records and observations as children explore, create, discover, and advance in their learning.

& Conversations

Encouraging rich conversations helps children develop deeper thinking and reflection. By incorporating questions throughout a study, educators can steer children through their learning journey, fostering connections and supporting their development. Every question holds value and can spark various thought processes in children. The complexity of the questions often enhances their language skills and cognitive growth.

Inquiry Study Themes

SELF STUDY

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

OUR WORLD

ALL ABOUT ANIMALS

CULINARY

SENSORY

CONSTRUCTION

TRANSPORTATION

FAIRYTALES

INVESTIGATING INSECTS

GROWING WITH GARDENING

NATURE

WONDERS OF WATER

Play Invitations

Play is central to learning in Early Childhood Education.

Through play-based learning, inquiry thrives. Children explore their surroundings, engaging with their environments and nurturing their natural curiosity through hands-on experiences in their unique learning journeys.

Authentic materials in a child's space serve as invitations to play. Introducing a pinecone or a stick to the block area can spark curiosity and imagination in ways we can't even imagine. When you welcome a child into a room rich with authenticity, possibility, and discovery, you'll see how exploration transforms into innovation, and simple play evolves into knowledge, confidence, and understanding. These materials are essential in igniting a child's desire to learn.

Science

Utilize observation and investigation to recognize, describe, and seek explanations for phenomena. Develop new theories and effectively use available resources, tools, and technologies to explore concepts and ideas. Understand and identify the differences and similarities among living beings and various materials. Take care of your body, promote nature conservation, and show respect for the environment.

Physical & Motor

Develop physical skills and become aware of their own bodies in relation to others, spaces, and materials. Explore space and movement freely, invent new movements, challenge themselves, and take risks. Grow in autonomy and take responsibility for their own safety.

Art & Design

Participate in exploration and imaginative play with materials, expand on creative ideas, investigate, combine, and convey concepts through the art-making process. Appreciate various works of art through observation and express your opinions about them.

Language & Literacy

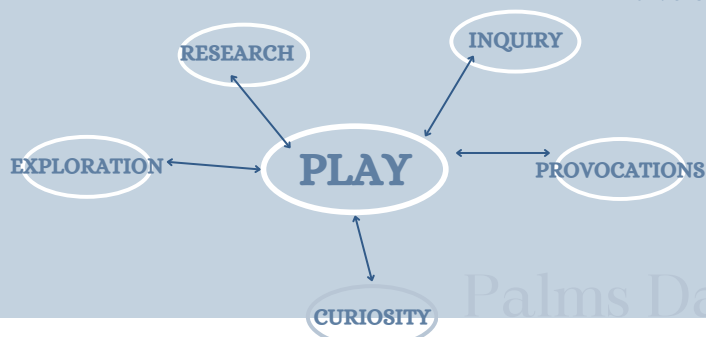
Comprehension and collaboration, communication of ideas, learning and using new vocabulary, phonological awareness, and understanding the functionality of written language in context. Feel confident and capable in reading and writing, even if it's in very early and unconventional forms.

Mathematics

Describe and compare measurable attributes, count and categorize objects, create, identify, analyze, and describe shapes, use simple maps, and organize information into tables, drawings, and lists.

Social & Emotional

Discover oneself and the world, express emotions through verbal and non-verbal communication, reconcile inner conflicts, and recognize their reactions and influence on reality. Collaborate and build relationships, develop an awareness of identity and belonging, and understand and respect cultural diversity.



Integrated Learning

STEM ENRICHMENT

STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math—are integrated into this hands-on, weekly problem-solving project that allows children to collaborate with their peers, fostering critical thinking and early innovation.

SIGN LANGUAGE

Sign language benefits young learners by enhancing communication skills, expanding vocabulary, and supporting cognitive development. It fosters social interaction and emotional expression, while promoting inclusivity and cultural awareness. Overall, mastering sign language builds confidence and improves communication abilities.

ARTIST DISCOVERY

Wassily Kandinsky
Michelangelo
Vincent Van Gogh
Andy Warhol
Pablo Picasso
Claude Monet

Paul Cezanne
Henri Matisse
Frida Kahlo
Jackson Pollock
Andy Goldsworthy
Georgia O'Keeffe & Eric Carle



Palms Day School

Our environments are the third teacher.

Our schools and learning studio environments are meticulously crafted with the child at the forefront of the design process. From furniture to equipment and learning tools, every element is intentionally arranged to maximize learning potential and inspire curiosity.

Children, with their innate curiosity, imagination, and sense of wonder, find their ideal setting reflected in our studios. We believe that children flourish in environments tailored to their interests and developmental stages. Following the principles of the Reggio Emilia approach, we perceive the environment as a third teacher. It is more than just a physical space; it's a welcoming, authentic, aesthetically pleasing, culturally representative extension of the community. Our studios embrace nature and are filled with purposeful materials, creating an environment that supports and enhances the learning journey of every child.



"The wider the range of possibilities we offer children, the *more intense* will be their motivations, and *the richer* their experiences."

-Loris Malaguzzi

