

The Kindergarten Philosophy

The kindergarten program recognizes that children are individuals and that each child is unique. All students come to school with different needs and capabilities. It is the teacher's job to acknowledge these differences and attempt to meet these varied needs by moving each child forward from where s/he currently is. This is accomplished through provision of a variety of open-ended learning activities designed to allow children to work at their own level.

The philosophy of the Kindergarten program embraces the concept of developing the whole child. It reflects an understanding that children learn through active involvement and play and that children represent their knowledge in a variety of ways. It recognizes the social nature of learning and the essential role of language in mediating thought, communication and learning.

In the Kindergarten program, teaching revolves around the development of five goals:

1) Aesthetic and Artistic Development

- The arts provide pleasure, satisfaction and a way for children to respond to and interpret their real and imagined world.
- Through the arts, children have opportunity to express their creativity, feelings and understandings.

2) Emotional and Social Development

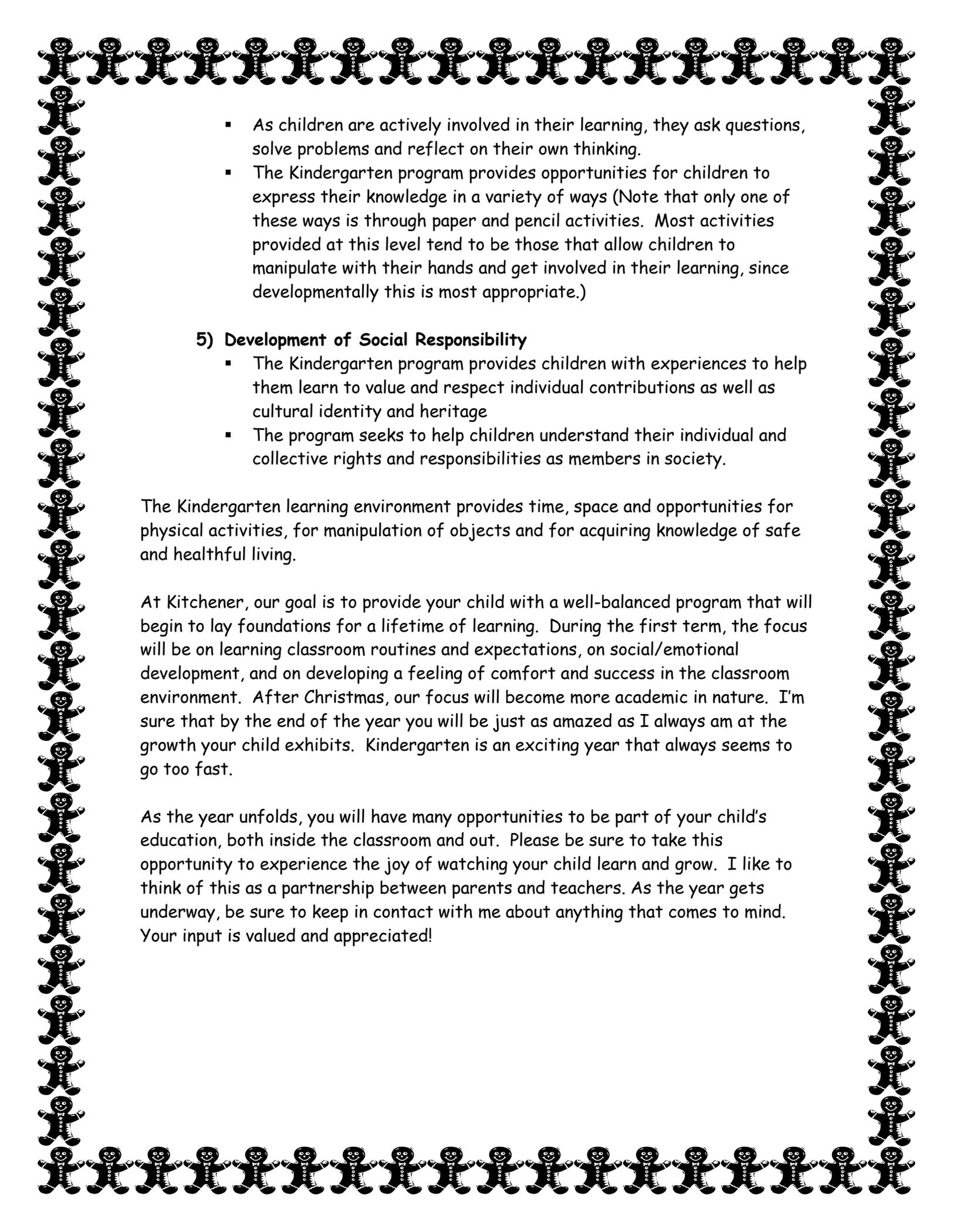
- Emotional and social well being are closely related and are vital to healthy growth and development.
- The Kindergarten program seeks to develop a positive self-concept in every child.
- In Kindergarten, children are offered opportunities to gain confidence and competence in functioning both alone and in cooperation with others.

3) Physical Development and Well Being

- The Kindergarten program provides children with experiences to help them learn about their growth and development, and their own role in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

4) Intellectual Development

- The experiences and knowledge which young children bring to school, combined with their natural curiosity and sense of wonder, are the foundation for learning in the Kindergarten program.

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- As children are actively involved in their learning, they ask questions, solve problems and reflect on their own thinking.
 - The Kindergarten program provides opportunities for children to express their knowledge in a variety of ways (Note that only one of these ways is through paper and pencil activities. Most activities provided at this level tend to be those that allow children to manipulate with their hands and get involved in their learning, since developmentally this is most appropriate.)

5) Development of Social Responsibility

- The Kindergarten program provides children with experiences to help them learn to value and respect individual contributions as well as cultural identity and heritage
- The program seeks to help children understand their individual and collective rights and responsibilities as members in society.

The Kindergarten learning environment provides time, space and opportunities for physical activities, for manipulation of objects and for acquiring knowledge of safe and healthful living.

At Kitchener, our goal is to provide your child with a well-balanced program that will begin to lay foundations for a lifetime of learning. During the first term, the focus will be on learning classroom routines and expectations, on social/emotional development, and on developing a feeling of comfort and success in the classroom environment. After Christmas, our focus will become more academic in nature. I'm sure that by the end of the year you will be just as amazed as I always am at the growth your child exhibits. Kindergarten is an exciting year that always seems to go too fast.

As the year unfolds, you will have many opportunities to be part of your child's education, both inside the classroom and out. Please be sure to take this opportunity to experience the joy of watching your child learn and grow. I like to think of this as a partnership between parents and teachers. As the year gets underway, be sure to keep in contact with me about anything that comes to mind. Your input is valued and appreciated!