

Why Brown's ECE and Kindergarten is Where You Want to Be

If you want your child to be an educated, globally minded citizen, then don't let him or her miss out on the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Kindergarten opportunities at Brown International Academy.

Brown's unique position in elementary education blends the best of two learning models to maximize your child's total potential. In order to ensure high academic achievement for all students at Brown International, teachers instruct with a research-based core curriculum in reading, writing and mathematics. In addition, small group instruction is provided to all students in reading and math to ensure that all students are challenged academically and, if necessary, to receive interventions for subject mastery. Teachers monitor the progress of students on a regular basis, differentiating instructions to support the learning of all students.

In addition to being a part of Brown's research-based curricula, your child will begin the journey into the trans-disciplinary Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organization. This inquiry-based program is designed for learners aged 3-12 (at Brown, the ECE program begins at age 4). It focuses on the total growth of the developing child, touching hearts as well as minds and encompassing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs in addition to academic development.

Understanding IB Attitudes and the Learner Profile



Enormous energy is placed on teaching the IB attitudes and the Learner Profile that represent the core beliefs at Brown International and the PYP programme of the International Baccalaureate Organization. These IB attitudes are reflected in each classroom as students and teachers share the responsibility for establishing "Essential Agreements" that include basic rules like:

- We will use respectful voices.
- We will be creative thinkers.
- We will cooperate and use teamwork.
- We will be risk takers and show excitement about learning.

Students are highly engaged and understand these concepts of being lifelong learners and the requisite attitudes for success. When asked the simple question, "What is your favorite IB attitude?", the Kindergarten students heartfelt IB endorsements included, **Adelaide's**, "Caring", **Dietrich**, "Being Respectful", **Annika**, "Being Open Minded" and **Rachel**, "Cooperating". This is a philosophy that permeates the classroom atmosphere, and leads to mutual respect from teachers towards students, students towards teachers and students amongst each other. Life lessons learned that create a better world for tomorrow.

ECE classmates play a "Game of Attitudes" that are established to define what attitudes are required for success in the Art room. The two most important attitudes you need in my classroom, "Respect" and "Enthusiasm", says Mr. Q.

Units of Inquiry

Through Units of Inquiry the ECE and Kindergarten learners at Brown are provided with many opportunities to increase awareness of themselves, make connections between school learning and life



outside of school, and begin to increase their awareness of, and sensitivity to, the experiences of others. A central and critical element of the PYP is developing an international perspective and an understanding of the commonality of the human experience. In the ECE and Kindergarten program this understanding begins with the knowledge of oneself, followed by the ability to consider the point of view of someone else in the same class, and then shifts to incorporate understanding of others in the local and global community.

The PYP also places a lot of importance on its students being inquirers. Through the Units of Inquiry the teachers are constantly encouraging students' curiosity. Lessons are developed that allow students to wonder, ask questions, and identify problems. The teachers at Brown guide and support students in finding answers and acting on their new found understandings.

ECE Units of Inquiry



When your child enters the Early Childhood Education program at Brown, they will be exposed to four units of inquiry:

Who Am I embodies human characteristics and emotions.

Music and Lyrics introduces music as a form of communication.

Born to Be Wild explores animals living in captivity and their human dependencies.

Safe and Sound examines societies safety rules and the people who protect us.

During ECE class, Mrs. Nelson's students elect their own "center" of

interest. One student uses her learning from "Born to Be Wild" to create an extemporaneous "animal race".

Kindergarten Units of Inquiry

Kindergarten continues to build on the foundation of the educational query established in the ECE classrooms. The program expands to include six central ideas, including:

We Are Family establishes the understanding of family relationships.

Planes, Trains and Automobiles moves through the exploration of transportation and geography.

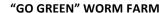
Culture Club paints a picture of the artistic representations of cultures around the world.



Turn, Turn sprouts ideas on the life cycle process and patterns of growth. **Same Time, Same Place** studies routines and organization that keep us safe. **Go Green** views how our daily habits impact the health of our environment.

Kindergarteners Take Action

The alignment of education, the global world we live in and our neighborhood community takes shape and underscores the guiding principals of the International Baccalaureate learning model. Kindergarteners reflect upon, and take action, that supports these intrinsic values.







Taking action on the "Go Green" unit of inquiry, Mrs. Polston's kindergarten class established a goal to be 100% green. Consequently, they developed a worm farm that recycles classroom snacks and paper.

Students are encouraged to make their community and world a better place to live in. A giving community is the hallmark of connected education. Coat drives and canned food drives are daily examples of the IB attitude "Empathy" fostered in the classrooms at Brown.

"TURN, TURN, TURN" COMMUNITY GARDEN



Kindergarteners of 2009 embraced the concept "Turn, Turn, Turn" by cultivating one of Brown's community garden plots, growing seedlings, planting them in the Spring, and harvesting their crop in the Fall. They used math measurements and followed directions to make homemade salsa with ingredients from their garden. Students demonstrated the IB attitude, "Cooperation."

The Primary Years Programme ensures that all learning is significant, relevant, engaging and challenging! Your child can reflect on the connections between life in school, life at home and life in the world. By helping your child make these connections and see that learning is connected to life, the PYP at Brown establishes a strong foundation for future learning.

Join the Journey of International Baccalaureate...

Enroll in ECE and Kindergarten at Brown International Academy today!