



### **Kinder Fives: 5 years**

This is our oldest and most mature group of children here at Growing Years! These children are looking for the challenge they need to carry them into the next level of their formal education, whatever that might be. The goals and outcomes we strive for with this age group are in alignment with Michigan's grade level equivalencies for kindergarten, plus character education, and building Christian principles.

Our KinderFives class grew out of a need for that extra year before either kindergarten or first grade. In other words, if children who attend this class are old enough for first grade the following year, they may attend as long as the school system they want to attend agrees to their enrollment. However, most children who attend this class end up attending kindergarten the following year.

Because we strive to bring out the very best from the children who attend our KinderFives program, many of these children then go on to qualify for gifted and talented programs offered in the city and township of Saginaw.

#### ***Communication:***

Each child receives a folder to be sent home on a daily basis for transporting classroom announcements and events, plus samples of each child's work, and perhaps suggestions for activities to be done at home with your child.

In addition, each month the lead teacher sends home a newsletter which outlines what they will be focusing on with the Kinder Fives Curriculum, as well as sharing words to songs and finger plays with parents. Other information pertinent to the program is shared also.

Besides the Growing Years Parent Handbook, parents will also receive a Welcome Packet for the Kinder Fives classroom which outlines information specific to that program.

Teachers may be reached any time during the day by calling the school at 989-792-8670 or by e-mailing us at [info@growingyearspreschool.com](mailto:info@growingyearspreschool.com).

#### ***Daily Schedule:***

Although children at the Kinder Fives level still need a lot of flexibility in their day, they also enjoy and need some structure and routine as well. Having a routine of events throughout the day gives our Kinder Fives a sense of security. They can begin to anticipate the order of events while becoming familiar with how those routines are carried out, such as group time, eating time, center time, and going outdoors, etc.



A typical day in the Kinder Fives classroom might look like this:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
6:30— 7:00am:	Children begin arriving and are greeted by staff. Belongings are placed in cubbies. Any special information for each child is shared with teachers and notated.
7:00— 8:30am:	Growing Years breakfast is served each day. Breakfast and lunch menus are sent home and posted each month for parents.
8:45— 9:00am:	Journal time: Children practice writing in their journals each day using journaling prompts provided by the teacher.
9:00— 9:30am:	Morning large group time. Teachers introduce new concepts from the curriculum for Kinder Fives. They also engage in other activities such as songs, finger plays, and stories. Teachers explain what they will find at the center areas that day.
9:30- 10:50am:	Kinder Fives move freely about the room engaging in interest area activities, such as writing, reading, sand and water play, dramatic play, blocks, manipulatives, and art exploration. Open snack is also offered at this time as a center choice.
10:50— 11:00am:	Small group time.
11:00— 11:35am:	Children are taken outdoors daily as long as weather permits. It is important for children to get fresh air and explore the outside world each day. Growing Years has a separate playground for this age group that is full of fun, developmentally appropriate equipment.
11:15— 11:30pm:	Children are encouraged to use the potty, wash up, and prepare for lunch.
11:30— 12:10pm:	Lunchtime! Children go to the library for lunch time. Teachers sit and enjoy eating with the children. Then children are encouraged to clean-up together.
12:10— 12:30pm:	Show and Tell time or games, songs, and a story.
1:00— 2:00pm:	After lunch and bathroom time, children lay down on mats for nap time and teachers pat children's backs until they fall asleep. Soft music is also played to comfort children during nap time.
2:00-2:30	Children awake from nap, enjoy a snack and prepare for going outdoors. Part time children are dismissed at 2:30
2:30-- 3:00pm:	Outdoor recess time. It is important for children to get fresh air and explore the outside world each day. Growing Years has a separate playground for this age group that is full of fun, developmentally appropriate equipment.
3:00—	Kinder Fives are engaged in small groups with teachers and other children for

4:30pm:	activities such as singing, reading books, or doing an art or sensory activity together. After small group time, children move freely throughout the room where teachers have structured interest activities involving small motor development (puzzles, etc.) or large motor development, as well as opportunities for creative expression through dramatic play, building with blocks, and socializing with other friends!
4:30— 5:00pm:	Large group, story time, and songs.
5:00— 6:00pm:	Children engage in individual activities with teachers as they await pick-up by parents. Upon pick-up, teachers share news of the day's activities for each child and chat with parents.

**Curriculum:**

During his or her Kinder Fives experience, your child will experience many activities in all areas of development.

**Social:**

- Φ Develop positive self-esteem.
- Φ Learn to work and play with others.
- Φ Learn to work independently.
- Φ Learn to follow directions and classroom expectations.
- Φ Demonstrate respectful and responsible behaviors.
- Φ Be polite and kind.

**Physical:**

- Φ Learn to use classroom equipment and supplies appropriately.
- Φ Develop large motor skills involving body movement and coordination
  - through running, skipping and rhythmic activities.
- Φ Develop small motor skills by using clay, tracing activities and cutting.



## Reading Readiness

Kinder Fives is a critical time to lay the foundation for becoming a successful reader.

Your child will learn to:

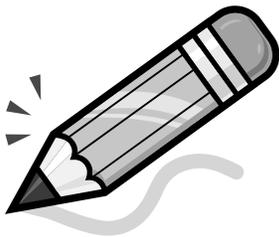
- Φ Recite the alphabet.
- Φ Recognize both upper and lower case letters.
- Φ Correctly say each letter's sound.
- Φ Learn basic concepts of print:
  - holding a book correctly;
  - tracking words left to right;
  - reading from the top to the bottom of the page;
  - identifying the front and back cover and title page;
  - understanding the correlation between spoken and printed words.
- Φ Identify initial and final sounds in spoken words.
- Φ Identify rhyming and non-rhyming words (sun/run vs. sun/man).
- Φ Determine word meanings from the way they're used in a sentence.
- Φ Make story predictions based on the title, cover, pictures and text.
- Φ Identify characters, setting, and key events in a story.
- Φ Retell stories in correct sequence.
- Φ Follow two and three-step directions using picture clues.



## Writing

Early writing skills are reported using one of five stages, showing continual growth from kindergarten through the primary grades.

- Φ Stage 1 involves pictures and scribbling.
  - Φ Stage 2 moves your child to the use of random letters, sometimes with correct initial sounds.
  - Φ Stage 3 involves the use of initial sounds or both the initial and final sounds—mostly consonants (i.e., lk for like).
  - Φ Stage 4 increases the use of vowels (lk becomes lik). As the words become longer, students begin to show an understanding of multiple-syllable words.
  - Φ Stage 5 uses many correctly-spelled words in multiple, related sentences.
- Φ Kindergarten writing objectives involve:
    - Φ Generating story ideas as a class and drawing pictures to match.
    - Φ Working as a group to draft a story.
    - Φ Writing from left to right and showing space between words.
    - Φ Writing the alphabet in both upper and lower case letters.
  - Φ Writing first and last name on school papers.





### Mathematics

- Φ Count to 30.
- Φ Identify and write numbers through 30 (in or out of order).
- Φ Identify penny, nickel, dime, quarter and dollar.
- Φ Identify the symbols +, -, = and learn simple addition and subtraction through number 10.
- Φ Understand the concepts of above/below/between, smaller/larger, longer/shorter.
- Φ Identify, copy and create models of various shapes.
- Φ Sort objects by size, color and shape.
- Φ Create a variety of simple patterns.

### Science

- Φ Introduction to . . .
  - Senses
  - Earth
  - Weather
  - Physical Science
  - Environmental Science



### Social Studies

- Φ Understanding . . .
  - Community Helpers
  - Holidays and Seasonal Customs
  - Maps and Globes

### Oral Language

- Φ Strengthening oral skills by . . .
  - Increasing vocabulary
  - Speaking in complete sentences in front of groups
  - Using creative dramatics, puppetry, chart stories, taped stories
  - Class discussions in small and large groups



### Art

- Φ Using assorted art materials
  - Paints
  - Clay
  - Papers
  - Chalk
  - Variety of tools

### Music

- Φ Involvement in . . .
  - Rhythm
  - Songs
  - Chants
  - Use of instruments



***Other Highlights of our Kinder Fives Program:***

***Weekly Bible lessons:***

Each week the classroom teacher presents a new Bible lesson to our Kinder Fives. Our Christian curriculum is non-denominational and geared towards building strong character, love and consideration for others, and making wise moral choices. Each lesson from either the Old or New Testament is shared in an attempt to make it relevant to the age group involved. To help with reinforcement of the concepts, each lesson is followed by a creative art idea.

In addition to the classroom lessons, Mrs. Anita Collins, the owner/director of Growing Years, meets with the Young Fives in the library each week to help reinforce Christian concepts using flannel board stories/characters, puppets, books, songs, and fingerplays.

***Peddlesfoots Character Education Curriculum:***

Each week the Kinder Fives class participates in a character education program featuring a family of rabbits named the *Peddlesfoots*. Through the stories of their many antics and trials, children learn about the importance of becoming children of good character. The stories have been combined with exciting lesson plans and activities for teachers to extend the concepts of *trustworthiness, respect, perseverance, caring, citizenship, fairness, self-discipline, responsibility, and courage*. Besides the stories, children also enjoy the song CD, read-a-long CD, and *Peddlesfoots* puppets.

This series was written by Anita Collins, the owner/director of Growing Years, along with her son, Matthew Hill, and daughter, Lisa Workman, who are also teachers. In 2006, the *Peddlesfoots* curriculum was selected as the centerpiece of a federally funded grant—Partnerships in Character Education—that was awarded to the Saginaw Intermediate School District. After being rigorously researched for 4 years, the *Peddlesfoots* curriculum demonstrated significant increases in children's pro-social behavior as well as improved academic achievement in literacy. Separate levels of curriculum were developed for preschool, kindergarten, and first grades.

If you would like more information about our character education program, we have a website at [www.peddlesfoots.com](http://www.peddlesfoots.com) or visit [www.truesaginaw.org](http://www.truesaginaw.org).

***Special Holiday Programs:***

Believe it or not, the Kinder Fives also put on 4 programs throughout the school year for parents and other family members to enjoy!

1. Children learn about the first Thanksgiving and celebrate by wearing costumes and entertaining you with songs, fingerplays, and a delightful menu of snacks.
2. Children learn about the first Christmas and celebrate by wearing costumes, re-enacting parts of the story through songs and fingerplays, sharing cookies and punch, and then being surprised by a visit from Santa!



3. Mother's Day Brunch is a hit each year as Moms are made to feel special and appreciated (we hope) through a program of songs, poems, fingerplays, and homemade gifts, followed by a brunch in their honor. (Grandmas or aunts are welcome too)
4. Daddy's Day Lunch is a great way for children to appreciate their fathers in a special way through songs, poems, fingerplays, and a special handmade gift, followed by lunch in Dad's honor. (Grandpas or uncles are welcome too)

***Music for Munchkins:***

We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Michele Spitz/Wietfeldt as our music teacher! The children love her and look forward to her weekly visits. We have a longstanding relationship with Michele as she is also the singer and music arranger for the *Peddlesfoots* series of songs.

In addition to *Music for Munchkins* playing a key role at Growing Years, Michele is busy working with children throughout the Saginaw area as she teaches music and provides entertainment for children's parties.

She is also available to sing for weddings and adult engagements. If you're interested in learning more about Michele, you can visit her website at [www.musicformunchkins.com](http://www.musicformunchkins.com).

***Developmental Milestones/Assessment:***

As part of our assessment plan, our teachers keep a *portfolio* of each child's work throughout the year to share with parents during *parent/teacher conferences*, held twice a year. This is a special time to talk about your child's growth and achievements as well as any concerns you might have.

In addition, parents will receive a *developmental milestone report* approximately every 3 months to let parents know what we are experiencing with their child at Growing Years. These reports become the vehicle we use to share our understanding of early childhood development as outlined by child development professionals.

In the spring of each year, we administer a kindergarten readiness screening to help you make critical decisions about formal education later on.

Finally, we begin teaching *literacy appreciation*, *print awareness*, and *phonics instruction* in an attempt to build a lasting foundation for reading success!

As all of this information is reviewed throughout the year, it is important to understand that individual children may exhibit all or only a few of the behaviors for a given age group and still fall within the normal range of development. Obviously, children progress at different rates throughout all aspects of their development.