

ZAH RAT AL-SAHRAA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# KINDERGARTEN

## 2024 - 2025

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★ FAMILY HANDBOOK ★

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*WHERE ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED*



INFORMATION



COMMUNICATION



DAILY ROUTINE



[WWW.ZSI.SCH.SA](http://WWW.ZSI.SCH.SA)



# WHO ARE WE

**Description** Zahrat Al-Sahra'a is an institution that prepares international learners based on the core standards of the American curriculum.

*Our mission is to equip young leaders with superlative knowledge and adaptable social skills through contribution, updated technology and resources, enthusiasm, equality, conscientiousness, commitment, and quality assurance.*

## Goals

- A well balanced, non-sectarian, segregation free educational program in the English language for members of the international community residing in Saudi Arabia, regardless of race, religion, nationality, or gender.
- High quality comprehensive input that generates the best outcome. An environment that allows for easy acquisition of knowledge and its applicability, personal and social skills, and improvement in attitude towards learning.
- An atmosphere that encourages students to acquire self-discipline and responsibility towards others and fosters students' ability to think independently, reason deductively, communicate effectively, learn enthusiastically, and behave responsibly.
- Parents with opportunities to participate in their children's learning.



## Vision and Purpose

- Adaptable social skills that are required to help each individual accommodate with new experiences. This is achieved through accurately planned activities (both curricular and extra-curricular).
- All individuals must be treated based in equality. Members of staff, students, and parents must all feel and understand that they are receiving fair treatment in order to ensure their comfort, which in return, will contribute to a positive learning environment.
- Superlative knowledge is translated into average to high scores, excelled academic performance, and adequate general knowledge.
- Update technology and resources are essential to maintain high quality education that ensures that any student at ZSIS is ready to succeed in other schools and in colleges.
- Every child and adult must seek knowledge. We can only achieve this by inducing the love of learning into our students'. With challenges and rewards, activities and encouragement, students reach a satisfactory level of enthusiasm.
- Quality assurance and conscientiousness go hand in hand as each individual works with loyalty, integrity, sincerity, consistency, and reliability.

**History and Governance** ZSIS is in its 36th year of operation catering education in English for students from Kindergarten through High School. Our curriculum is based on expected learner outcomes, built upon American frameworks and developed to prepare our students for further studies at colleges and universities in the region and abroad.

# IT IS A MAJOR MILESTONE

## WE GOT YOU

Welcome to ZSIS Kindergarten!

Your young child is going to kindergarten. You, Dear Mommy, are a xious, proud, worried, excited, and passing through an emotional rollercoaster. It is 100% normal. Your baby has grown into a relatively independent child who is going to spend time away from you. Will he be able to ask for something he wants? Will he make friends? Will he have to sit alone during recess? Will he miss me? Will he know his way through the building? Will he know how to unwrap his sandwich?



Your baby is a big kid now. He will learn to ask for help. He is super sweet and will make many friends. He has learned a lot from you that now he is ready to interact and communicate. He will surely miss you, but it is not going to be painful. He will be excited about many new things that he'll come back home with many stories to tell you! He will be surrounded with caring adults who will help him navigate through school.

## FOCUS ON THE CHILD'S EMOTIONS

Your young child is also feeling apprehensive. He'll be leaving the nest for the first time in his life, or after a long summer vacation. You have already made your research about the school, and you have certainly chosen the one that best suits your perceptions and your child's needs.

- Explain the new daily routine to your child. Have him understand that he will be leaving you every morning to spend a great time at school with friends and teachers. Explain that he will enjoy many things and will have many exciting stories to tell you when he gets back home. Tell him that you will be waiting to hear stories as you prepare a yummy lunch for the 'big kid' he has become!
- Read stories about first days of school to your child. The Kissing Hand is one of our favorite stories. You can find many more stories that will help your child understand and prepare for the new experience ahead.
- Have your child help you pack his lunchbox. Fill it with his favorites. Teach him how to unwrap the sandwich and how to open his water bottle. Assure him that in all cases, the teacher is happy to help him.
- Take him on a tour around the school before the actual school day. He has the right to know where he is going to be spending his mornings.
- When you say good-bye, stay positive. Your child is watching your reaction to figure out how he should feel. If you appear worried or upset, he may be more fearful. Children tend to pick up our emotions. Say a quick, upbeat good-bye; tell him that yes, you will both miss each other, but he will have a great day. And remind him that you'll be back by lunchtime.
- Resist the rescue. Don't run back to the classroom if you hear your child crying. He may, quite understandably, feel sad and a little scared. But if you return to the classroom, you might prolong his distress. Have confidence that the teacher knows how to deal with these situations. After all, she has signed up for this!
- If you're worried, call us as many times as you want to check up on your child.

## SHARE YOUR FEARS

Never hesitate to ask us questions and to share your emotions. Inform us of your child's reaction to school after the first week. It is our job to help you.

Preschool is all about fun, activity, growth, and development. Those first days will definitely become beautiful memories soon.

Pray for your child every morning, gear him up with a comforting hug, and send him to his second home - ZSIS Kindergarten.

# OUR PHILOSOPHY AT ZSIS KINDERGARTEN

Children are at a continuous process of learning, and it is our job to help them know how to learn. At ZSIS Kindergarten, we engage young children in activities that challenge them to think, ask, express, and create in a safe environment.

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

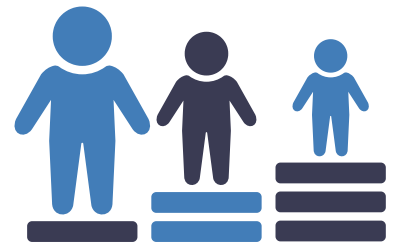
Our curricular and extra-curricular activities all aim at a positive and effective social-emotional development of children. We immensely believe that a happy, stable, confident, safe, and enthusiastic child is a learner who is guaranteed to succeed.



## DIFFERENTIATION AND EQUITY

Differentiation is an approach that involves adjusting methods and strategies of teaching to meet the needs of individual students.

Differentiation in kindergarten is important because young children entering this stage of education have diverse learning needs, abilities, and interests. Recognizing and addressing these differences through differentiation can positively impact their educational experience and contribute to their overall development. With this applied, we ensure that every child receives an equal opportunity to learn.



## FUN IN LEARNING

It is no news that children learn best when having fun. A model kindergarten classroom is one that involves technology in teaching, clarity in presentation, encouragement by the teacher, diversity in activities, and fun during the process.

## IT IS NOT ABOUT PAPERWORK

At ZSIS Kindergarten, books make up a small part of the actual practice of skills and knowledge. We provide children with different opportunities to practice what they learn everyday, and books are only part of these options.





# DAILY ROUTINE

Want to know how your child spends his day?  
Here is a mock schedule!



BREAKFAST

MORNING CIRCLE

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ACTIVITY STATIONS

LIBRARY/MEDIA

MATHEMATICS

ACTIVITY STATIONS

MEALTIME

RECESS

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES

ARABIC LANGUAGE

ACTIVITY STATIONS

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

LANGUAGE ARTS (WRITING & GRAMMAR)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SNACK TIME

DISMISSAL



# AGE REQUIREMENT

Students are placed in classes based on age groups that fall within certain dates provided by the Ministry of Education. The age requirements for the academic year 2024-2025 are:

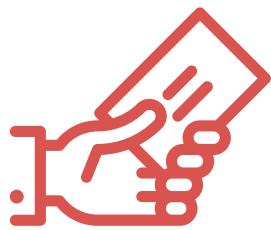
LEVEL	HIJRI	GREGORIAN
Preschool	01.01.1442 - 11.01.1443	20.08.2020 - 19.08.2021
Pre-K	19.12.1440 - 29.12.1441	20.8.2019 - 19.08.2020
Kindergarten	09.12.1439 - 18.12.1440	20.08.2018 - 19.08.2019

# SCHOOL TIMINGS

Arrival	7:30 AM - 8:00 AM
Dismissal	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Parents must report their child's absence and back it up with a valid reason. We stress on the importance of perfect attendance.

# DISMISSAL POLICY



Each student receives one Dismissal Card that has to be presented everyday by the child's guardian or driver for pick up. In case of loss, the guardian must sign a clarification form and purchase a new card for 100 Riyals. This is to ensure the children's safety and well-being.

# EMERGENCY CALLS

During emergencies (God Forbid) school contacts parents through their mobile phones. Always keep your mobile phone on to avoid missing a call or a message.



# UNIFORM

Students must wear the school uniform everyday. Keep hair combed back for boys and tied back for girls.

Wear no-lace sneakers with socks.

Send an extra outfit for emergencies. Label with student's name.



# MEAL

Students have three mealtimes. Morning breakfast between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM; main meal at around 10:00 AM; snack time between 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM.

- Make sure your child's lunchbox has enough food and water.
- Keep the lunchbox healthy. Add ready-to-eat fruits and vegetables.
- Junk food like chips, soda, chocolate, and candy are not allowed.
- Hotdog, Basturma, tuna, and eggs are not allowed too.
- Students eat inside their classrooms as they learn to wash their hands before eating, say their prayers, and apply table manners. This is all part of learning.

# HYGIENE

- Boys' hair should be cut short enough to be kept away from eyes and not tied back.
- Girls' hair should always be tied back and never let loose.
- Fingernails should be kept short for cleanliness.
- Uniform should be clean at all times.
- Make it a habit for your child to use tissue when sneezing and to cough in elbow.
- Keep your child aware of hygiene habits to keep him safe at all times.

# BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The school does not allow individual celebrations. We prefer these special days to be celebrated with the family.

# BOOKS & BAGS

Books are sent home only when there is homework. They should be kept neat at all times.

You may only send FOLDER BAGS to school. Big bags and roller bags are not allowed inside the classroom. Label your child's folder bag.

# COMMUNICATION

## HAVING QUESTIONS?



1 Login to your school account ([www.zsi.sch.sa](http://www.zsi.sch.sa)), choose your child's teacher, or member of administration, and send a message.

2 Call us on the school mobile phone +966 54 729 1417 between 7:30 AM and 2:30 PM on weekdays.

3 Send a written note with your child.

4 Send a direct message on Instagram ([zsis\\_kids](https://www.instagram.com/zsis_kids)).

5 Visit us at school between 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM

6 Attend our periodic Mother-Teacher-Meetings.

## CARE TO RECEIVE NEWS & UPDATES?

- Download our app ZSIS, login with your account, check news & messages. Turn notifications on.
- Fill your correct mobile number to receive SMS.
- Check your school inbox everyday.
- Follow us on Instagram: [zsis\\_kids](https://www.instagram.com/zsis_kids).

