



SHANGHAI SINGAPORE  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
上海新加坡外籍人员子女学校



Welcome to SSIS Early Years



# WELCOME TO SSIS EARLY YEARS (PN-K2)

Welcome to the Early Years Division of Shanghai Singapore International School.

We believe every child is unique, capable and talented. Our young learners are natural inquirers ready to investigate and construct their understanding of the world. Thus, we provide the nurturing environment where authentic engagement and investigative play enable our young learners to become courageous, compassionate and communicative.

Our dedicated team of experts cultivate lasting relationships as caregivers and educators while implementing the SSIS Early Years curriculum to ensure the holistic development of our children. Our dual-language approach supports learners' language acquisition, sense of identity and intercultural skills.

The curriculum core is comprised of seven key learning areas that allow for transdisciplinary learning as our young learners explore the world around them, make meaningful connections and, most importantly, learn to communicate their thoughts and opinions. The inquiry-based curriculum fosters what children do best: explore. Throughout each day, students across all four year levels are questioning, reasoning, observing, reading, discussing, playing and socialising.

Investigative playtime, learning centres, external excursions, cultural events and celebrations, assemblies, learning showcases and an array of specialist lessons support the core of the Preschool curriculum.

Like so many before them, we know our future graduates will do amazing feats and we are proud to say 'It all started in the Preschool!'



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# OUR PHILOSOPHY

SSIS believes in the holistic development of a resourceful, confident and independent learner within a caring and nurturing environment to become a global citizen.

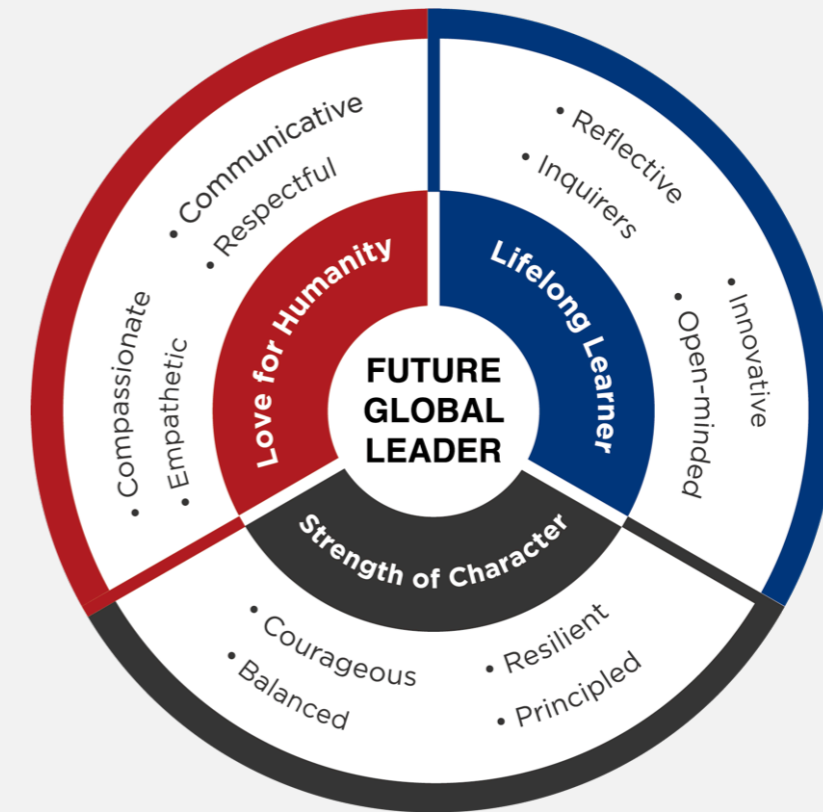
**Our Vision:** The realisation of a lifelong learner with strength of character and love of humanity.

**Our Belief:** Learning is an inquiry process that embraces children's innate curiosity and supports their creativity as they construct their understanding.

**Our Approach:** Inquiry, play and authentic interactions underpin our approach where learning is skill-based, focused and transdisciplinary.



# OUR DESIRED OUTCOMES OF SSIS EDUCATION



## Future Global Leaders with Strength of Character & Love for Humanity

At SSIS, we envisage the desired outcomes of the Pre-Nursery to Grade 12 SSIS education to be the fruition of a future global leader who is engaged in lifelong learning with strength of character and a love for humanity. We believe it is our responsibility to develop in our students the necessary character traits and qualities. Their personal and social growth and development are also crucial as they understand their responsibility in society and eventually become a global leader.

# OUR CURRICULUM

Our Early Years Programme provides a **stimulating dual-language environment** that **nurtures lifelong learning** and **fosters holistic development**.

The Early Years curriculum offers a holistic approach to learning through integrated, theme-based and hands-on learning experiences. We believe that play and aesthetics are vital to healthy childhood development as they ignite creativity and support language development. Each day students experience a range of activities and interactions that support their growth as active, curious and competent individuals.

Our Early Years Programme aligns with Singapore's Ministry of Education's Nurturing Early Learners (NEL) framework. The NEL emphasises the holistic development, lifelong learning, critical thinking and open-mindedness. Our curriculum embodies seven key learning areas.



## Aesthetics and Creative Expression

- Enjoy art, music and movement activities.
- Express ideas and feelings through art, music and movement.
- Create art, music and movement using experimentation and imagination.
- Share ideas and feelings about art, music and movement.



## Discovery of the World

- Show an interest in the world they live in.
- Find out why things happen and how things work through simple investigations.
- Develop a positive attitude towards the world around them.



## English Language and Literacy

- Listen for information and enjoyment.
- Speak to convey meaning and communicate with others.
- Read with understanding and for enjoyment.
- Use drawing, mark-making, symbols and writing to communicate ideas and information.



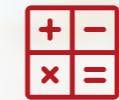
## Chinese Language and Culture

- Develop an interest in learning Chinese Language.
- Develop Chinese reading and literacy skills.
- Develop an appreciation of the Chinese Culture.



## Motor Skills Development

- Enjoy participating in a variety of physical activities.
- Demonstrate control, coordination and balance in gross motor tasks.
- Demonstrate control and coordination in fine motor tasks.
- Develop healthy habits and safety awareness at home, school and public places.



## Numeracy

- Recognise simple number patterns and relationships, such as matching and sorting.
- Use numbers in daily experiences.
- Recognise and use basic shapes and spatial concepts in daily experiences.



## Social and Emotional Development

- Develop an awareness of personal identity.
- Manage their own emotions and behaviours.
- Show respect for diversity.
- Communicate, interact and build relationships with others.
- Take responsibility for their actions.

**At SSIS Preschool, we nurture young learners into confident and motivated global citizens: children who look forward to exploring and discovering the many facets of our world throughout their lifelong journey of learning.**

# THE EARLY YEARS CLASSROOM

## Individualised Attention

Each child matters. We keep our class sizes small to **enhance social interactions and increase opportunities for presentation and authentic communication.**

Each early years' class has **two professional early childhood educators, 1 Foreign and 1 Chinese**, and **a supporting governess** who foster a nurturing environment for problem solving, communication and skill-based learning. Students engage in carefully planned units of inquiry that allow them to explore, make connections, share opinions and truly discover their world.



In addition, we engage specialists for many subject areas to further enrich our students' learning experiences.

1. **Literacy** (K1 & K2) – Literacy lessons are closely linked to class language lessons as a range of reading and writing skills, phonetic awareness and communication skills are enforced using the Get Reading Right literacy programme.
2. **Visual Arts** (Pre-Nursery to K2) – Children explore and experiment with a wide variety of art mediums, learn different skillsets, and are encouraged to let their creativity and imagination run wild.
3. **Music and Movement** (Pre-Nursery to K2) – In early childhood education, music and movement helps children to integrate physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning domains for a whole child approach to learning.
4. **Physical Education** (Pre-Nursery to K2) – PE emphasises the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and social interaction. Specific units teach the students locomotor skills (movement), non-locomotor skills (balance) and manipulative skills (catch, dribble, kick, etc). Our K2 children have a 10-week unit on gymnastics and swimming before transitioning to Primary School.
5. **Learning Centres** (K1 & K2) – Learning Centres are opportunities for student-led exploration and authentic communication into varied topics. Each day, K1 and K2 students participate in carefully-designed centres such as Culinary Fun and Chinese Culture. Learning centres are fun and purposeful engagement as they provide students opportunities to explore new topics, hone new skills and develop holistically.



# LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We know life and learning are not limited to a classroom. Therefore, our Preschool curriculum includes neighborhood and city excursions, aesthetic performances, poetry festivals, STEAM week and many cultural celebrations. Every month our young learners have new opportunities to grow, socialise and develop their international-mindedness.



## HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

We believe a close parent-teacher relationship is essential for our children's success. **We are partners-in-action.** Daily class updates, monthly newsletters and daily individual communication notes ensure our families are informed of their child's social, emotional and academic development. Our yearly calendar includes multiple opportunities which engage our parents as **part of the learning community** and **showcase students' achievements.**

- Communication Book: Daily social-emotional and hygiene updates (PN-K2), learning information and weekly personalized notes are shared with families.
- ManageBac APP: Daily class updates, student photos and divisional events are communicated to ensure our parents-in-action are well-informed.
- Newsletters: Monthly principal newsletters noting detailed curriculum updates, important divisional information and early childhood education tips.
- Termly Student Progress Reports and Portfolios: These are vital tools as we document, reflect and celebrate each child's learning journey with their families.
- Annual Conferences: Parent Teacher Conference, Student Led Conference
- Parent Education Workshops: Topics such as Literacy, Phonics, Reading strategies, Positive Discipline

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

We create a **safe environment** where parents will be 100 percent assured with entrusting their child into our care.

- All snacks and lunch are prepared by our in-house professional kitchen team. Our school kitchen is ISO22000 certified and we source our vegetables from our organic farm. Our weekly menu is shared via our communication channels.
- All campus facilities are maintained by our professional maintenance crew and we have a team of Campus Safety officers that does regular monthly safety checks such as bus safety, equipment and facilities.
- All our teachers abide by SSIS Child Protection Policy. The responsibility to protect the children in our care from any kind of harm is our utmost priority.
- Our faculty members undergo courses on CPR and AED training so that we are ready in case of an unexpected medical situation.
- We have a team of certified and professional nurses in our school's Health Centre. Our nurses conduct daily routine health checks for all preschool students. Parents will always be informed of any visits to the Health Centre.





## A DAY AT SSIS PRESCHOOL (K2)

- |       |  |       |                               |
|-------|--|-------|-------------------------------|
| 8:00  | Welcome! Morning routines and Investigative Play | 12:00 | Lunch                         |
| 8:30  | Class Circle Time & Morning Snack                | 13:00 | Learning Centre               |
| 9:00  | Hands-on Numeracy Lesson                         | 14:00 | Free Play & Afternoon Snack   |
| 10:00 | Outdoor Play at Mermaid Park                     | 14:30 | Dual-Language Exploration     |
| 10:30 | Language and Literacy Lesson                     | 15:30 | End of school day: ASP begins |
| 11:30 | Music and Movement Lesson                        |       |                               |





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