

KIDS AFTER HOURS

Curriculum Guide



Kids After Hours
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Curriculum Guide Overview

In the following pages, we have laid out the Kids After Hours curriculum. It has been divided into ten thematic units; each unit is intended to last a month (and should follow the order set by this guide).

Each unit contains activities that fall under the following categories: Reader's and Writer's Workshop (promoting literacy and writing), the Science & Math Zone, Culture Fun (focusing on Social Studies-related activities), Creative Arts (covering Arts and Crafts, as well as Theater/Drama), Outdoor and Group Games, and Snack Options. These activities are intended to help introduce and/or reinforce academic concepts that students are learning in class.

The curriculum guide features a sample monthly activity chart of additional activities and snack options, but you do not need to follow that order (it's merely a suggestion). Although we are intending for you to complete these activities during club time, we have provided additional activities that your center can complete throughout the month.

To improve our students' literacy, we have provided a list of suggested texts (found in the sample monthly calendar). Although we think it would be great idea for you to share the reading responsibility with some of the students, we'd like you to model effective reading strategies when you're reading to the group.

Please remember to:

- Preview the book w/ title, author, and illustrations. Ask the students to predict what the text will be about and have them activate their prior knowledge about the topic by asking what they already know about it.
- While you're reading, ask them probing questions about characters, events, character relationships, and/or connections to the students' lives. Try to get them to beyond the text to get to a deeper meaning!
- Throughout the reading, ask for students to summarize and formulate predictions.

If you have any ideas for additional activities to add to later editions of this curriculum guide, please write them up and give them to your director. We view this curriculum as a living document which is updated throughout the year, and we'd love to have your input in helping our program improve.

The KAH Curriculum!

The KAH Curriculum consists of engaging, hands-on activities to get kids as enthusiastic as we are about exploring new ideas and subjects. We plan and execute challenging and fun activities to provide the best quality of care for our kids. Our curriculum focuses on arts & crafts, literacy, STEM, nutrition & exercise, social studies and social skills, team building, and much more! We also have included elements of the Character Counts program!

Character Counts Program:



The Character Counts 'Six Pillars of Character' is a framework for good character we have adopted into our centers! For this program, kids can earn pins for showing exceptional behavior. Each month is focused around a Character Counts Pillar. These pillars are: respect, responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness, citizenship, and caring. Each month, we provide activities, discuss and promote one of these pillars. When a child does a random act of kindness towards a friend or staff member, they receive a pin. This program has helped promote social and emotional learning, and has helped instill pride in doing something good.



At Kids After Hours we want to do everything we can to promote positive learning experiences and create a "culture of caring" and the Character Counts framework has helped us to do so. Plus, the kids can collect some super cool pins!



Other Aspects of Our Curriculum:



Parent Involvement

Kids After Hours believes strongly in the need to create a strong bond with our children's families. To garner this type of good relationship, be sure to invite parents to partake in any and all activities in our curriculum. Since it's not always possible for parents to be able to participate actively in our fun, we'd like to emphasize the need for every center to update your Facebook pages consistently with photos of your activities! We want K.A.H. families to see the fun that their child is having at your center, and be able to reinforce the related skills/concepts at home.

Extension Activities & Adaptations

In our curriculum guide, for each lesson you will see: a description of the activity, academic objectives, step-by-step directions, supplies, and ideas for extension activities and adaptations that could be made. Since we work with such a wide range of children, we've included these extension activities so that all students have the opportunity to further explore each academic concept at home, and to keep all students intellectually challenged in our centers. We also provide adaptations to activities in order to fit the needs of students who may need to modifications to complete and engage in the activity as well.



Curriculum Units

September: Homecoming

October: Fantastic Fall Fest

November: Cultural Cornucopia

December: Winter Celebrations

January: Animal Safari

February: Construction Zone

March: Once Upon a Time

April: All - Stars

June: The Great Outdoors

The KAH Curriculum!



Literacy:

We provide opportunities for children to develop a passion for BOOKS! We believe that it takes just ONE BOOK to inspire a person to read more. At KAH, we are endlessly searching for that book.



Each month, we highlight books that support our monthly theme. Through Poetry Clubs, Writer's Workshops, read-alouds and opportunities for quiet reading time... we strive to inspire!



Every Kids After Hours center has their own KAH library with books for all levels of reading. From picture books to chapter books we have opportunities for all kids to read and enjoy!



The KAH Curriculum!



Social Skills:

There is no question that one of the most important aspects of our program is helping children develop their social skills. Teaching kids how to make new friends, share toys, or simply say 'hello' to friends they see in the hallways are important skills that we focus on at Kids After Hours.



We place an emphasis on equipping children to deal with situations in ways that are constructive and that lead towards responsibility and respect for others; as well as

focusing on children's ability to manage their emotions, their interactions with others, learning how to be a part of a community, and of course making new friends! Social skills are a valuable tool that kids will use for their whole lives.



The KAH Curriculum!



Nutrition & Exercise:

Kids After Hours wants kids to learn the importance of being active and healthy! We do this through providing many active games, time to play outside or in the gym, and even time to play with our cool equipment like our rock wall and moon bounces! Everyday we offer healthy options for snack! Kids will also learn about healthy foods and the importance of being active through many of our clubs and activities such as: yoga club, sports clubs (like basketball, flag football, etc.), cooking clubs, gardening clubs, and many more! Along with all of this. We also have our Karate Specialists who come to our centers throughout the school year! Kids can learn karate and practice their skills in order to earn their own karate belts!



The KAH Curriculum!

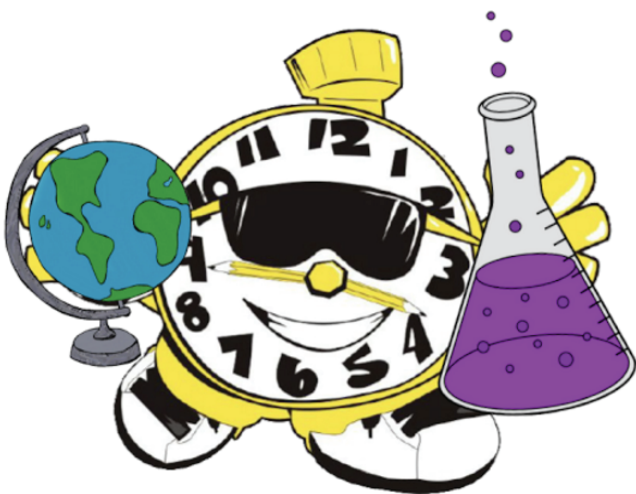
S.T.E.M.:

We always strive to get kids questioning and exploring the world around them. From building their own town, to reconstructing the Eiffel Tower out of marshmallows, we'll be exercising kids' artistic and problem-solving skills, as well as

introducing them to the basics of

engineering and science through many of our STEM projects and activities. In addition to introducing and reinforcing academic concepts that the kids are learning in class, our STEM activities will provide kids with hands-on activities that

are FUN for all of our kids!



Homecoming

Back to School Time!!! Kids After Hours is excited to see old faces and new with the beginning of the school year! This month will be focusing on ice-breaker and team building activities that will make our new kids start to feel right at home!

In addition to traditional Homecoming activities (such as creating a Homecoming float and flag football games), we will also be inviting parents to meet and greet events! This month we will also be focusing on the Character Counts trait of Citizenship!

For a very special project that the kids will love, the kids will create a 'Welcome Wagon' and create small gift bags for the school's teachers and staff to welcome them into a new school year! Using student art, designs, and planning, K.A.H. kids will be welcoming our teachers in style! Teaching kids small ways to make someone's day, while also having kids practice talking to adults!

FANTASTIC FALL FEST

As we celebrate the wonders of Fall, we will be exploring creepy crawlers, delicious (and nutritious) holiday snacks, and pumpkin-related arts & crafts.

In addition to traditional Halloween activities (such as pumpkin art and scary stories), we'll be learning about Christopher Columbus through a crazy gym game, as well as focusing on our Character Counts trait of Responsibility!

Kids will have a blast this month helping to create decorations for our annual Trunk-or-Treat event!

To celebrate the Fall season, towards the end the month we will be inviting all of our students and their families to our Trunk-Or-Treat Event. Our students will be creating costumes and decorations, and we will be asking families to come dressed up, decorate their cars, and bring some small prizes or treats. This will be a wonderful way to celebrate the fall season while connecting families to Kids After Hours!

CULTURAL CORNUCOPIA

Living in the Silver Spring area, we're fortunate to be located in one of the most diverse areas in the region. Our staff and students' heritages come from all around the globe. In November, we will delve in-depth into the vast array of cultures that make up our school, our community, and the world.

While we will be completing art projects that emphasize the value of our multicultural society, the core of this unit will be the our activities from around the world. Students will learn about the a variety of cultures' tradition, enhancing their research skills while learning about another culture, and develop their geography knowledge along the way.

In addition to improving their cultural knowledge, and international awareness, we will also promote skill development while learning about other cultures (Martin Luther King, Chinese New Year, yoga practice, etc).

To celebrate our center's diversity, at the end the month we will be inviting all of our students and their families to a potluck dinner. Students will be creating invitations and decorations, and we will be asking families to bring in foods that represent their nationalities. This will be a wonderful way to learn about different cultures while also strengthening the bond between K.A.H. and home!

WINTER CELEBRATIONS

Why celebrate one winter holiday when you can celebrate them all? As the temperature drops, the good feelings rise at Kids After Hours locations. Throughout December, we rejoice in the wonders of wintertime by playing outside in the snow, sipping hot chocolate to warm us up, and learning about holidays that are celebrating all over the world.

While the kids will enjoy learning about different cultures by playing Dreidel and making latkes, they will also examine the role of carbon dioxide in creating a volcano with Mentos candies!

ANIMAL SAFARI

Kids After Hours celebrates the significance and awesomeness of animals with a month-long unit that allows the children to discover some of the wonders and excitement animals can create. We will also be discussing the importance of keeping our environments clean, and the affect are actions can have on wildlife.

Students will create art inspired by wildlife from the jungle to their backyard through animal-inspired crafts, games, and activities. Additionally, Kids After Hours will introduce the importance of recycling and how our actions here can affect animals all around the world.

For this month, we will be giving our students an opportunity to help an animal charity of their choice (with supervision of the director) and come up with a way to help! This could be through making blankets for an animal shelter, or having a bake sale to raise money for a foundation. We want our students to feel independent and empowered to help change the world!

once UPon A TIME

To celebrate the books and reading, Kids After Hours will spend this month treating the kids to activities related to books, games, and activities. Being that Dr. Suess' birthday comes at the end of the preceding month, we will spending the month celebrating him, as well as other beloved authors!

Dr Seuss was born Theodor Seuss Geisel in 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Ted wrote and illustrated 44 children's books, including such all-time favorites as *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, *Fox in Socks*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. His books have been translated into more than 15 languages, and over 200 million copies had found their way into homes and hearts around the world.

Get in the Seuss spirit while eating green eggs, constructing your own Cat in the Hat, and making your own edible truffula tree!

Along with all of our Dr. Suess related activities, we will be having open-ended activities for kids to choose their favorite authors and books. As a special event for this month we will be having parents/guardians volunteer to be guest readers at our centers throughout the month!

CONSTRUCTION zone

Kids After Hours knows one undeniable fact: children LOVE to build. In this unit, we support this love by providing them with the opportunity to concoct a multitude of creations.

From building their own town to reconstructing the Eiffel Tower out of marshmallows, we'll be exercising the students' artistic and problem-solving skills, as well as introducing them to the basics of engineering.

The "Construction Zone" unit places a major emphasis on science and math instruction. In addition to being exposed to concepts of force, gravity, and physics (in the Egg Drop Experiment), students will even learn about the advanced concept of sublimation (while making huge bubbles with dry ice).

In addition to introducing and reinforcing academic concepts that the kids are learning in class, this unit will also be sure to build a good time!