

# Island Kids High Scope Curriculum Overview

High Scope is a research based and validated curriculum model that has been proven to help children achieve educational goals. Some of the key elements of High Scope are:

Children participate in active participatory learning that allows them to interact, make choices and participate at their own developmental level.

Children construct their knowledge of the world. Learning is not just a matter of Teachers giving information to the children, but rather a process of shared control in which children make discoveries through direct experiences with people, objects, events and ideas.

Children make plans each day and follow through on their intentions as they build knowledge and skills.

Teachers are actively involved providing materials, planning activities and talking with children in ways that both support and challenge what the children are observing and thinking.

Problem Solving is taught and practiced in the classroom as a way to handle conflicts that arise.

## ***Our Day at Island Kids:***

**Greeting Time:** Teachers and children talk about the day and any changes to the daily routine. During this time teachers may tell children about new materials or any special visitors or events. Classroom discussions on a variety of topics occur during greeting time.

**Small Group Time:** Teachers work with a small group of children on an activity they have chosen and planned. Activities are planned to introduce concepts and skills as well expand on concepts and skills previously learned.

**Large Group Time:** Adults and children in the classroom participate in an activity together. It is a time to build a sense of community in the classroom. Activities may include music & movement, storytelling, games or other shared physical activities.

**Planning Time (3's & 4's):** Children meet daily with their planning groups prior to work time. Depending on age and ability to communicate they express their plan in actions, gestures or words. Planning is different than simply making a choice because it involves purpose and intentionality. Teachers will use a variety of methods to help children make their plan.

**Choice Time (2's):** Children are free to make choices about where they play, what materials they use and who they play with. As they approach age 3, teachers will introduce a more formal planning time.

**Work/Center Time:** Children carry out their plans and put their ideas into action in the classroom interest areas (Blocks, House, Quiet, Sensory, Art, Toys). It provides many opportunities for social interaction and problem solving. Children are free to change their plans or make new plans as often as they like during work time. Teachers closely observe children and are there to support their learning during work time. Teachers use information gathered during observations to help them assess children's development as well as to plan future classroom activities.

**Recall Time (3's & 4's):** Groups meet again after work time to briefly recall what they did during work time. This encourages children to reflect on their actions and what they learned that day.

**Outside Time:** Each day (weather permitting) children will spend time outdoors exploring their environment as they interact with their peers and develop their gross motor skills.