

THE NOW ACADEMY

2026 KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM GUIDE

Learn. Build. Lead. Become.

Business • STEM • Leadership

Strong Foundations. Real-World Skills. Character. Purpose.

TheNowAcademy.co



Welcome to the Curriculum

Learning Designed for Who Your Child Is Becoming

A strong curriculum should do more than cover subjects.

It should help a child develop the knowledge, confidence, character, curiosity, and skills they will need to keep learning throughout life.

At The Now Academy, we ask two questions:

What does this child need to learn?

and

Who is this learning helping them become?

Our 2026 Kindergarten curriculum combines:

- literacy
- foundational mathematics
- Business + Entrepreneurship

- STEM + Innovation
- Leadership + Biblical Character
- Global Perspective
- Creativity
- project-based learning
- digital fluency
- reflection and student portfolios

Our Curriculum Promise

Learn. Build. Lead. Become.

Curriculum Philosophy

We Don't Separate Learning From Life.

Children learn concepts, and then practice using them.

Our curriculum follows a simple learning rhythm:

LEARN → APPLY → BUILD → REFLECT → GROW

LEARN

Develop knowledge and foundational skills.

APPLY

Connect learning to meaningful situations.

BUILD

Create, test, communicate, collaborate, and solve.

REFLECT

Think about what worked, what did not, and what was learned.

GROW

Use the lesson to improve the next attempt.

This means mistakes are not treated simply as failure.

They can become:

information → reflection → adjustment → growth

Whole-Child Learning Framework

Strong Academics Are the Foundation—Not the Finish Line.

The Now Academy curriculum is organized around six connected pillars:

1. Academic Foundations

Learn to read, write, think, and reason.

2. Business + Entrepreneurship

Learn to create value.

3. STEM + Innovation

Learn to solve problems.

4. Leadership + Biblical Character

Learn to lead yourself first.

5. Global Perspective

Learn to understand the world.

6. Creativity

Learn to imagine and express.

Together, these support the larger transformation:

Learn. Build. Lead. Become.

Literacy

Literacy Gives Children the Tools to Understand and Communicate.

Kindergarten students build age-appropriate foundations in:

- phonemic awareness
- phonics
- letter-sound relationships
- early decoding
- vocabulary
- listening comprehension
- reading comprehension
- handwriting
- sentence development
- storytelling
- speaking and presenting

Why It Matters

Literacy is not only about reading books.

It helps children:

- **understand ideas**
- **communicate clearly**
- **ask questions**
- **tell stories**
- **express what they know**

Application

Students may connect literacy to:

- business presentations
- STEM explanations
- journal reflections
- project descriptions
- global stories
- leadership conversations

Mathematics

Math Helps Children Recognize Patterns, Make Decisions, and Solve Problems.

Kindergarten mathematics may include:

- counting
- number recognition
- quantity
- comparing numbers
- addition and subtraction foundations
- shapes
- measurement
- patterns
- sorting
- sequencing
- spatial reasoning
- problem-solving

Real-World Connections

Math may be applied through:

- **money activities**
- **simple pricing**
- **building projects**
- **measurements**
- **data and charts**

STEM challenges

The goal is not merely: “Can the child get the answer?”

We also ask: “**Can the child explain how they thought about it?**”

Business + Entrepreneurship

Business Teaches Children to Create Value.

Business education in Kindergarten is not about turning children into executives.

It introduces a different way of thinking: “**What can I create, improve, solve, or contribute?**”

Students may explore:

- needs and wants
- goods and services
- saving
- giving
- spending
- stewardship
- simple pricing
- profit basics
- customer needs
- creating a product
- presenting an idea
- teamwork

Example Learning Experience

A child might create a simple product, determine what materials cost, choose a price, explain who might want it, and reflect on what they learned.

That one experience can integrate:

math + literacy + creativity + business + communication + leadership

Financial Literacy

Money Lessons Can Start Early.

Age-appropriate financial education may introduce five simple ideas:

EARN

Money can come from creating value or completing work.

SAVE

You do not have to spend everything immediately.

GIVE

Resources can help others.

GROW

Some resources can be set aside with the possibility of future growth.

SPEND

Choices have consequences.

Stewardship

Children also begin learning:

Resources come with responsibility.

This can connect naturally to biblical principles around stewardship.

STEM + Innovation

STEM Teaches Children How to Work Through Problems.

Students may explore:

- science
- engineering
- technology
- coding foundations
- robotics
- simple machines
- design
- experimentation
- observation
- measurement

The emphasis is not simply on getting the project right.

Children practice:

TEST. ADJUST. TRY AGAIN.

Engineering Mindset

Idea → Test → Learn → Improve

When something does not work, students are encouraged to ask: **“What can this teach me?”**

That is where STEM can also develop resilience.

Science

Science Begins With Curiosity.

Students learn to observe, question, compare, test, and explain.

Topics may include:

- living and nonliving things
- plants
- animals
- weather
- seasons
- matter
- motion
- light
- sound
- simple forces
- environment

Core Questions

What do you notice?

What do you think will happen?

What happened?

Why do you think that happened?

What should we try next?

This helps children learn that good questions are part of good thinking.

Technology + Digital Fluency

Technology Is a Tool. Thinking Is the Skill.

Kindergarten students may use age-appropriate technology for:

- learning activities
- creative projects
- communication
- presentations
- guided research
- digital storytelling
- introductory coding

Digital Citizenship

Students begin learning:

- ask before clicking

- protect private information
- use kind words
- care for devices
- ask an adult when something feels wrong
- know when to step away from a screen

Core Philosophy

A Digital Campus does not mean a digital childhood.

Children still need:

- **movement**
- **play**
- **conversation**
- **hands-on activities**
- **books**
- **creativity**
- **human relationships**

Leadership Development

Leadership Starts Before a Title.

Kindergarten leadership begins with self-leadership.

Students practice:

- listening
- taking turns
- speaking clearly
- keeping commitments
- completing responsibilities
- apologizing
- asking for help
- working with others
- making choices
- setting simple goals
- reflecting

Key Idea

Before children learn to lead others, they begin learning to lead themselves.

Leadership is therefore not one separate class.

It is practiced throughout the Academy day.

Biblical Character

How Children Build Matters.

The Now Academy is faith-centered.

Biblical principles may be integrated into conversations about:

- integrity
- honesty
- service
- stewardship
- responsibility
- respect
- compassion
- forgiveness
- purpose

Foundational Scripture

“Train up a child in the way he should go...” — Proverbs 22:6

The goal is not simply Bible knowledge; it is helping children begin understanding how faith influences:

- **choices**
- **relationships**
- **leadership**
- **responsibility**

Social-Emotional Development

Children Need Skills for Learning With Other People.

Social-emotional development supports leadership and character.

Students may practice:

- recognizing emotions
- expressing feelings appropriately
- calming strategies
- empathy
- conflict resolution
- patience
- asking for help
- listening
- cooperation
- responsible decision-making

Example

A child may learn: **“I understand that you are angry. Hitting is still not okay.”**

That distinction helps children understand: **feelings can be acknowledged while behavior still has boundaries.**

Global Perspective

Children Can Value Where They Come From and Learn About the World Beyond Them.

Students may explore:

- world cultures
- geography
- languages
- traditions
- food
- music
- art
- global innovators
- different communities

As partnerships develop, learning experiences may also include:

- guest speakers
- cultural exchange
- global classroom connections
- community experiences

Goal

Develop:

- **curiosity**
- **respect**
- **perspective**
- **global awareness**

without asking children to abandon their own identity.

Creativity

Creativity Helps Children Imagine What Does Not Exist Yet.

Students may engage in:

- art
- music
- design
- storytelling
- building
- dramatic play
- visual communication

- creative problem-solving

Creativity supports:

- innovation
- communication
- confidence
- expression
- entrepreneurship
-

STEM

The Academy does not treat creativity as separate from serious learning.

It is part of how children learn to think.

Project-Based Learning

Children Show What They Know by Using It.

Students move through:

LEARN → BUILD → PRESENT → REFLECT

Projects may include:

- STEM prototypes
- simple business activities
- cultural presentations
- science demonstrations
- creative work
- collaborative challenges
- student showcases

Why Projects Matter

Projects allow students to:

- apply learning
- practice communication
- work through mistakes
- collaborate
- build confidence
- see progress

Known by One Lead Educator. Inspired by Specialists.

Relationship + Expertise

Young children benefit from both consistency and specialized expertise.

Lead Educator

The Lead Educator helps:

- know the whole child
- track academic growth
- understand strengths and challenges
- maintain routines
- communicate with families
- coordinate learning

Specialist Faculty

Specialist educators may deepen learning in:

- literacy
- mathematics
- STEM
- Business
- leadership
- global studies
- creativity

Educator Resource Philosophy

Specialists may recommend books, tools, projects, and resources they believe best support students.

The Academy retains oversight for:

- **quality**
- **age appropriateness**
- **academic alignment**
- **faith alignment**
- **budget**
- **student needs**

Core Principle

Expert recommendation. Academy oversight. Student-centered decisions.

Assessment

We Measure Growth, Not Just Test Scores.

Assessment helps us understand where students are and what support they need next.

Academic Growth

What does the child know?

Skill Growth

What can the child do?

Leadership Growth

How is the child growing in responsibility, confidence, and communication?

Character Growth

How is the child developing in integrity, self-management, service, and respect?

Assessment May Include

- teacher observation
- formative assessments
- student work
- presentations
- projects
- portfolios
- parent conversations

Student Portfolios

Your Child's Growth Should Be Visible.

Each student may build a portfolio that tells the story of their learning.

Possible portfolio items include:

- writing samples
- math work
- STEM projects
- business ideas
- creative work
- presentations
- photos of projects
- reflections
- growth milestones

Parent Benefit

Parents can see:

- **what was learned**
- **what improved**
- **what the child created**
- **where the child is growing**

A portfolio helps learning become visible.

Kindergarten Leadership Journey

Four Phases of the Founding Year

PHASE 1 — FOUNDATIONS

Learn the routines. Build the skills.

Focus may include:

- literacy foundations
- math foundations
- classroom culture
- character
- introductory STEM

PHASE 2 — EXPLORATION

Ask. Try. Discover.

Focus may include:

- science
- engineering
- business exploration
- coding foundations
- global learning

PHASE 3 — CONFIDENCE

Use what you are learning.

Focus may include:

- financial literacy
- presentations
- team projects
- leadership opportunities
- problem-solving

PHASE 4 — SHOWCASE

Build it. Share it. Reflect.

May include:

- STEM showcase
- Business project
- portfolio presentation
- leadership reflection
- family celebration

Different Days. One Connected Curriculum.

MONDAY — FOUNDATIONS

Literacy
Math
Character
Leadership

TUESDAY — EXPLORE

Science
Engineering
STEM
Hands-on learning

WEDNESDAY — APPLY

Business
Leadership
Projects
Collaboration

THURSDAY — GUIDED DIGITAL LEARNING

Skill practice
Global learning
Project continuation
Digital fluency

FRIDAY — GUIDED DIGITAL LEARNING

Creativity
Reflection
Reinforcement
Family-supported learning

Important

Subjects are not restricted to a single day.

This sample simply demonstrates how different learning experiences may be emphasized throughout the week.

The Digital Curriculum Experience

Online Days Are Learning Days.

The Now Academy Digital Campus may support:

- assignments
- learning resources
- teacher guidance
- project instructions
- announcements
- family communication
- reflections

The two guided-online days may include both:

Online Activities

Digital lessons

Teacher guidance

Creative tools

and

Offline Activities

Reading

Writing

Projects

Movement

Hands-on exploration

Family-supported practice

Core Principle

Parents support the environment; The Academy guides the learning.

What We Want Children to Become

The Curriculum Is the Plan; the Child's Growth Is the Goal.

We want students increasingly able to say:

I CAN LEARN.

Confidence.

I CAN ASK QUESTIONS.

Curiosity.

I CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS.

Capability.

I CAN TRY AGAIN.

Resilience.

I CAN CREATE.

Innovation.

I CAN COMMUNICATE.

Leadership.

I CAN HELP.

Service.

MY CHOICES MATTER.

Responsibility.

MY FUTURE HAS POSSIBILITIES.

Vision.

These are not promises of perfection.

They are capacities the curriculum intentionally gives children opportunities to practice.

Parent Partnership

You Should Know How Your Child Is Growing.

Families may stay informed through:

- teacher communication
- portfolio reviews
- progress conversations
- project showcases
- Digital Campus visibility
- parent resources

Partnership Philosophy

Parents know their child in ways educators cannot.

Educators see learning behaviors parents may not always see at home.

When those perspectives communicate, everyone understands the child better.

Our Curriculum Standards

Intentional Does Not Mean Unstructured.

The curriculum should be developed and reviewed with attention to:

- age appropriateness
- academic progression
- developmental readiness
- instructional quality
- project alignment
- student safety
- faith and character standards
- New Jersey educational requirements applicable to the Academy's final operating structure

Core Principle

Innovation works best when it stands on a strong academic foundation.

Curriculum Resource Selection

The Best Resource Is the One That Best Serves the Student.

The Now Academy does not intend to choose books and instructional materials simply because they are familiar or popular.

Educators may evaluate resources based on:

- **instructional quality**
- **age appropriateness**
- **clarity**
- **student engagement**
- **alignment with learning goals**
- **faith and character standards**
- **accessibility**
- **cost**
- **teacher expertise**

Process

Specialist recommends → Academy reviews → Student need guides the decision

Curriculum Review + Improvement

A Strong Curriculum Learns Too.

The Founding Cohort gives The Now Academy an opportunity to study:

- student engagement
- academic progress
- project quality
- parent feedback
- educator observations
- digital learning effectiveness
- pacing
- resources

Then:

We will not change curriculum simply because something is new. We will improve it when evidence and experience show that students can be better served.

Research + Evidence Philosophy

Evidence-Informed. Faith-Grounded. Practically Applied.

When research informs curriculum decisions, The Now Academy should prioritize:

- peer-reviewed research
- established educational scholarship
- government guidance
- credible universities
- subject-matter expertise
- student evidence

We should avoid:

- invented statistics
- unsupported educational trends
- technology simply because it is fashionable
- claims stronger than the evidence supports

Core Philosophy

Research helps us understand learning.

Faith helps ground character.

Educators help translate both into practice.

Future Development

The Curriculum Will Grow With the Cohort.

The 2026 Curriculum Guide describes the Academy's **Founding Kindergarten curriculum**.

As the cohort advances, The Now Academy plans to develop age-appropriate curriculum for subsequent grades.

This allows us to:

- **build intentionally**
- **evaluate what works**
- **strengthen systems**
- **expand at the pace of quality**

Build it well, then build it bigger.

Your Child Is Learning More Than Subjects.

They Are Learning What They Are Capable of Becoming.

The Now Academy curriculum brings together strong academic foundations with **Business, STEM, Leadership, creativity, faith, character, and real-world application.**

If this reflects what you hope education can help develop in your child, the next step is simple.

Schedule a Parent Discovery Call

Ask questions. Explore the curriculum. Decide whether The Now Academy feels right for your family.

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