

Early Blocks of Learning

THE EVERYDAY AT BASIS BEGINNERS PRAGUE

The day at BASIS Beginners Prague has a stable structure and rhythm. While the day starts for some students as early as at 7:30 in the morning, the first Discovery and Foundation Block starts later, giving Early Birds time to start the day by playing or by getting a head start on a certain task for the day. The Discovery and Foundation Blocks are built on a spiral—every day the lesson builds on the previous lessons and students benefit from participating every day.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN DAILY SCHEDULE

SUBJECT	TIME	NOTE
Early Bird (Open Play)	7:30–8:30	Groups are together
Morning Welcome	8:30–8:45	Recommended latest arrival: 8:45
Brain Break	8:45–9:00	
Knowledge Discovery & Foundation Block Lesson	9:00–9:20	
Snack/Individual Work/Open Play	9:20–10:00	
Knowledge Discovery & Foundation Block Lesson	10:00–10:30	
Movement (Outside Time)	10:30–11:00	
Open Play (Outside Time)	11:00–11:30	Groups are together
Reading	11:30–12:00	Groups are together
Art/Drama/Music/PE	12:00–12:30	
Lunch	12:30–13:00	End of Half-Day: 13:00
Nap/Quiet Time/Individual Work/Czech preschool education	13:00–15:00	Groups are together
Snack	15:00–15:20	Groups are together
Tablet Centers	15:20–15:30	
Engineering	15:30–16:00	Groups are together
Learning Centers	16:00–16:30	Groups are together
Open Play	16:30–17:00	Groups are together
Late Bird (Open Play)	17:00–17:30	Groups are together

Please see the Pre-School Daily Schedule on page 3.

PRE-SCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE

SUBJECT	TIME	NOTE
Early Bird (Open Play)	7:30-8:30	Groups are together
Morning Welcome	8:30-8:45	Recommended latest arrival: 8:45
Brain Break	8:45-9:00	
Knowledge Discovery & Foundation Block Lesson	9:00-9:20	
Snack	9:20-9:40	
Tablet Centers/Open play	9:40-10:00	
Movement (Outside Time)	10:00-10:30	
Open Play (Outside Time)	10:30-11:30	Groups are together
Reading	11:30-11:45	Groups are together
Art/Drama/Music/PE	11:45-12:00	
Preschool Lunch	12:00-12:30	End of Half-Day: 12:30
Nap/Quiet Time/Individual Work	12:30-15:00	Groups are together
Snack	15:00-15:20	Groups are together
Afternoon Reading	15:20-15:45	
Engineering	15:45-16:00	Groups are together
Learning Centers	16:00-16:30	Groups are together
Open Play	16:30-17:00	Groups are together
Late Bird (Open Play)	17:00-17:30	Groups are together

INSTRUCTION TIME ALLOCATION TABLE

SUBJECT	GROUP	TIME (per week)	TIME (daily average)
Math	Emerging	50min	10min
	Discovering	1h 15min	15min
	Exploring	2h 30min	30min
	Foundational	2h 55min	35min
Language, Literacy, and Phonics	Emerging	1h 40min	20min
	Discovering	2h 5min	25min
	Exploring	2h 30min	30min
	Foundational	2h 55min	35min
World Around Us	Emerging	2h 5min	25min
	Discovering	2h 30min	30min
	Exploring	2h 30min	30min
	Foundational	2h 55min	35min
Arts & Technology	Emerging	1h 40min	20min
	Discovering	1h 40min	20min
	Exploring	2h 30min	30min
	Foundational	2h 55min	35min
Physical, Social, and Emotional Development	Emerging	1h 15min	15min
	Discovering	1h 15min	15min
	Exploring	1h 15min	15min
	Foundational	1h 15min	15min
Total Instruction Time	Emerging	7h 30min	1h 30min
	Discovering	8h 45min	1h 45min
	Exploring	11h 15min	2h 15min
	Foundational	12h 55min	2h 35min

NOTE:
Emerging
 (2¼ to 3 years old)
Discovering
 (3 to 4 years old)
Exploring
 (4 to 5 years old)
Foundational
 (5 to 6 years old)

Early Bird: this is time for open play, the children have free access to toys and can play as they choose, or they can use the time for help with the preparation for the upcoming day.

Morning Welcome: the students are introduced to the program for the day and find out what they should expect and look forward to.

Brain Break: serves as a break for the brain in the form of a quick 1 minute activity such as jumps, stretching and yoga poses.

KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY & FOUNDATION BLOCK SUBJECTS

1. Language & Literacy: the subject focuses on the basics of a child's development of personal and interpersonal communication skills and on learning actively to listen and to speak. Literacy involves an introduction to storybook reading, storytelling, poems, rhymes, phonics, and recognition of letters and sight words, writing letters, journaling, and the growth from the ability to identify pictures in books to reading comprehension. Literature is often used to introduce themes that will be carried through all of our Discovery and Foundation Blocks.

2. Math: concepts that are introduced include days, months, years, numbers, patterns, recognition of shapes, and the sorting and writing of numbers. Additionally, the children will explore problem-solving and other basic concepts of math, including graphing, quantity and counting, money, weight and measurement.

3. World Around Us: the subject begins with the children learning and sharing who they are in the world, their interests, and how and what they like to play with. It extends to understanding our family, our school, our community, city, state, and country and the larger world, holidays and important historical figures. They also examine our world with an introduction to learning about our bodies, the environment, seasons, weather, the earth, planets, geography, geology, plants, and animals.

4. Art: the goal at this age is to show the students new ways to see the world, to help them acquire a relationship to art, and to develop critical thinking skills. Also, to introduce them to all of the possible art tools and creative works.

5. Music: the children are exposed to live and recorded music, sing common children's songs, and hear and learn classical and global music. They learn about tempo, rhythm, beat, repetition, sequencing, elementary musical note reading, and about different instruments and their sounds.

6. Drama: the subject introduces the beginning skills of performance, speaking, singing, dancing, and choreography.

7. Movement: the children learn that that being physically active is an important part of being a balanced person. They actively participate in a class that focuses on the development of age-appropriate gross motor skills, teamwork and sportsmanship. The class will include an introduction to nutrition as a part of a healthy active lifestyle, dance, sports skills, and group games.

Open Play: the children have free access to toys and can play as they choose, or they can use the time for help with the preparation for the upcoming day.

Nap/Quiet Time: the children that want to sleep will lay down and rest in their own space. Children that do not want to sleep, will be allowed to participate in a quiet/calming activity, so that they could rest.

Reading: this is the time for reading stories, fairytales and active discussion of the plot and characters.

Tablet Centers: the students have dedicated practice time with tablets with access to specifically selected educational applications only.

Engineering: the children investigate, innovate, build and use natural and manmade materials to explore age-appropriate science, technology, engineering, and math concepts.

Learning Centers: the classroom is divided into different learning centers which provide the children with a structured activity as well as a choice of what activity they want to focus on.

Late Bird: this time is for open play, the children have free access to toys and can play as they choose, or they can use the time for help with the preparation for the upcoming day.

A SPECIAL DAY AT BASIS BEGINNERS PRAGUE

The Discovery and Foundation Blocks lessons are organized in units with a common theme (planets, birds, Czech history), and each unit lasts 5 to 15 days. When appropriate, the school organizes a visit of a professional from a field related to the theme of the unit to demonstrate the material the students are currently learning in a new and exciting way and to provide further opportunity for a hands-on experience.

A VERY SPECIAL DAY AT BASIS BEGINNERS PRAGUE

Some of the lesson units culminate in a visit to places where the students get to see and experience what they were learning about (Planetarium, ZOO, Karlstejn Castle). Field trips are a vital part of our program and we incorporate at least one every other month.

ARE WE IN OR ARE WE OUT

Our school is situated in the beautiful neighborhood of the Landronka Park with well-equipped playgrounds and the opportunity to play outside there. The school has its own garden, so we can hold classes outside anytime the weather allows it. The blending of the inside and outside and overlapping playing and learning is a signature of our program.

THE LITTLE AND THE BIG

The Discovery and Foundation Blocks of Learning have distinct educational goals and milestones for each age group. Nevertheless, we consider the multiage structure of our school to be an excellent tool to practice social and communication skills as well as the opportunity to expose the students to a variety of learning practices—observation, imitation, demonstration and guidance. The method utilized for instruction depends on the goals and the content of the specific part of the lesson unit. In some cases, it is best to organize the instruction in mixed age groups to enable the younger students to learn by observation and imitation. In a mixed group, the older or more advanced students can master their knowledge and skills by providing active support to the younger learners. It is an opportunity to practice as well as to enhance their understanding of the task. On the other hand, there are educational tasks that are best achieved in a small homogenous group where age-appropriate methods help develop the student's individual potential. It is our goal to equip our students with lasting habits of respecting and protecting the younger and weaker and cooperating with and learning from the older or stronger members of their community.

PLAY TO LEARN

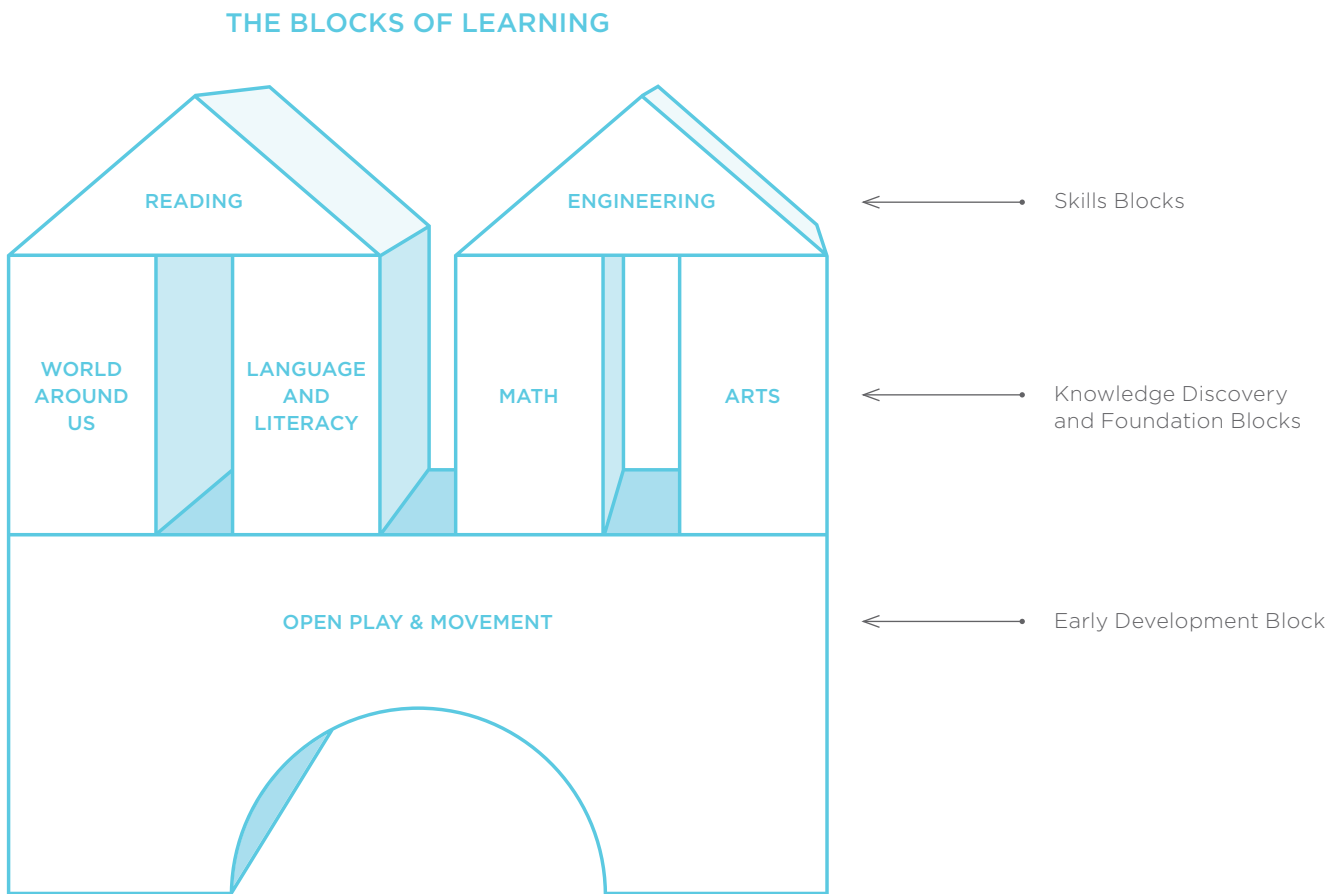
You may be familiar with this common concern: “they are just babies; they should just play.” We at BASIS believe that playing and learning are not mutually exclusive. Learning to learn is like learning to walk. First you do it slowly and you need a lot of support, but eventually it becomes an effortless skill that carries you to everything you dream about and need. The earlier learning becomes a child's second nature, the more indistinguishable it becomes from playing, and the happier and easier his or her childhood will be. This is why, we like to emphasize: it's never too early to learn!

THE BLOCKS OF LEARNING

The BASIS Beginners Prague curriculum works with three types of Learning Blocks:

1. THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS

The Early Development Blocks focus on the children’s social and emotional development, self-care, and gross motor skills. While the activities and mini-lessons supporting the goals and milestones set for Early Development are built into all of the classes, the Movement class and Open Play time make these goals their primary focus.



2. THE KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY AND FOUNDATION BLOCKS

The Knowledge Discovery and Foundation Blocks are essential academic pillars of the curriculum. The students learn in a spiral-like sequence of topics in the Language & Literacy, Math, World Around Us, and Art classes to reach goals set up in the BASIS Curriculum Early Education Milestones. The most important part of this learning process is learning to enjoy the acquisition of knowledge and developing lifelong love for learning.

3. THE SKILLS BLOCKS

The Skills Blocks serve to develop intellectual and physical tools, helping students to learn. While these are cultivated in every class, there are two specific classes focusing on the skills: Read and Engineering. The Read class teaches students to gather, retain, and process information. These skills are particularly useful in the Language & Literacy and World Around Us classes. The Engineering class focuses on the development of problem solving skills and fine motor skills, but most of all, it is a practical invitation to foster the children's creativity. The skills attained in the Engineering class are remarkably helpful in Math and Art classes.

KNOW WHERE YOU GO

The Discovery and Foundation Blocks content was created from the top to the bottom. We analyzed the skills and knowledge most important for succeeding when entering the first grade at a BASIS School to develop the Milestones for the Foundation Blocks. Then we selected the most beneficial faculties to be developed at ages 3-4 to build the Discovery Blocks to make the Foundation Blocks most accessible to students. A detailed description of the goals of the BASIS Beginners Prague program can be found in the BASIS Curriculum Early Education Milestones. This material is available to interested parents upon request. Please contact our admissions office for more information.