



مركز الأغا خان للتعليم المبكر، دبي  
AGA KHAN EARLY LEARNING CENTRE, DUBAI

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

### WELCOME TO AGA KHAN EARLY LEARNING CENTRE (AKELC)

AKELC welcomes children from all nationalities, ethnic groups, religions, and races. This purpose-built facility, for young children ages 12 months to 4 years, is located within the Ismaili Centre Dubai, a building designed to promote cultural, educational and social programmes. Highly qualified and experienced multi-lingual staff provide nurturing and responsive care in a high quality learning environment. Our part or full day and year round programmes suit a variety of parental needs.

AKELC is accredited with the U.K. National Day Nurseries Association e-Quality Counts and the Jawda Quality Improvement Program. This rigorous accreditation looks at outstanding practices in the areas of Health and Safety, Nutrition, Management, Staff, Partnering with Parents, Environment, Safeguarding children and Special Needs children.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

At AKELC your child's health and safety is our highest priority. The Centre is located on the ground floor in a spacious purpose built facility, free of stairs and is designed with your child's safety in mind. AKELC is equipped with a clinic, a full time DHA registered nurse and Doctor on call. The Centre has smoke detectors and fire alarms in each area of the Nursery, and routine safety inspections and drills are performed. The Centre is monitored via CCTV, has a security system at the entrances and is monitored by a security team in the Ismaili Centre.

### OUR ENVIRONMENT

AKELC occupies a unique architectural space which reflects the culture of the region. Custom designed spacious classrooms, hallways, gym and library are filled with purposeful materials and equipment - all arranged to engage children's interest. Large windows create unity between the inside area and outside gardens, and provide an abundance of natural light.

The Outdoor area is designed to allow children to explore the environment in a safe place. A garden, sand play area, bicycle trail and climbing unit encourages the development of children's creativity, imagination, and small and large motor skills. Regardless of weather conditions, the children have the opportunity to participate in physical activities in a large indoor gym specially designed for young children.

### AKELC ACTIVITIES

At AKELC we recognize that the early years are a crucial time for brain development and growth in language, cognitive skills and social competence. We provide activities such as story reading, gym, cooking, arts and crafts, music and movement, small groups, special events, Parent Education mornings, field trips, Jolly Phonics and much more. Arabic is integrated throughout the day.

We also offer "EXTRA" classes such as sports, dance, Arabic, and music classes for added enrichment.



## OUR CURRICULUM

AKELC provides a broad holistic early childhood education that follows the highest international standards of excellence. AKELC follows the British Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and a High Scope "Plan-Do-Review" model.

The Centre's curriculum is:

- bilingual Arabic/English with an emphasis on nurturing the child's home language
- based on well researched approaches to early childhood education
- taught by competent well trained early childhood educators
- implemented through active participatory learning

## ABOUT EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years. This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school, as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes.

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 Prime Areas first. These are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

The Prime Areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the Prime Areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it is designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interest. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outdoors.