



DWIGHT  
SCHOOL  
DUBAI



**DWIGHT SCHOOL DUBAI**  
EARLY YEARS PROGRAMME

## EARLY YEARS PROGRAMME

At Dwight School Dubai, our Early Years Programme nurtures curiosity, creativity, and confidence through play, exploration, and inquiry. We provide a balanced foundation in academics, languages, arts, and physical education, helping our youngest learners grow holistically while developing independence, self-expression, and ownership of their learning journey.

Our philosophy is simple yet powerful: ignite the spark of genius. Through playful, inquiry-based learning in a nurturing environment, every child develops a love of learning, the confidence to explore, and the skills to thrive. At Dwight, Early Years is more than preparation for school, it is the first step in shaping creative, resilient, and capable lifelong learners.

We recognise that every child is unique. That's why we personalise each educational journey, placing each child's strengths, their sparks of genius, at the heart of the learning experience. Our engaging, playful approach supports social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development, ensuring growth at every stage.





## OUR APPROACH TO LEARNING

### Learning Through Play and Inquiry

Play is the language through which young children make sense of the world. In our Early Years classrooms, play drives learning, allowing children to experiment, solve problems, collaborate, and build resilience. Through these experiences, they develop foundational literacy, numeracy, and science skills while cultivating creativity, critical thinking, and social-emotional intelligence, the cornerstones of lifelong learning.

We follow each child's interests, valuing their voices and choices, and integrating curriculum expectations through meaningful units of inquiry. Children explore, learn, and discover through an active process of inquiry, building curiosity, imagination, and agency. Over time, they develop self-regulation, symbolic expression, and a positive sense of identity that supports their learning now and in the future.

### A Holistic Foundation

Our Early Years Programme teaches a broad base of knowledge and skills across:

- Mathematics & Science – Exploring concepts through play and discovery
- Communication, Language & Literacy – Developing speaking, listening, and understanding skills, early reading, writing and storytelling skills
- Expressive Arts & Design – Encouraging creativity, imagination, and self-expression
- Physical Education – Building coordination, confidence, and teamwork
- Languages – Arabic, French, Mandarin, and Spanish, woven naturally into daily learning
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development - Building a sense of self by communicating their needs and supported on their journey to self regulate

Through these experiences, students learn to self-regulate, communicate effectively, and take responsibility for their learning.

## IB LEARNER PROFILES

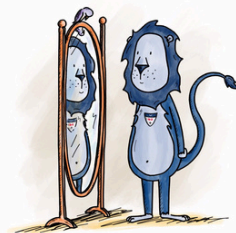
Balanced



Thinkers



Reflective



Communicators



Principled



Open-Minded



Caring



Risk-Takers



Inquirers



Knowledgeable



At Dwight, even our youngest learners begin an exciting journey as inquiring, caring, and internationally minded individuals. From Pre-K, children are introduced to the IB Learner Profile attributes through the guidance of our friendly mascot, Gus the Lion. Gus helps make learning these qualities fun, tangible, and relatable, bringing each attribute to life in ways children can understand.

Each IB Learner Profile attribute, being caring, balanced, reflective, principled, knowledgeable, open-minded, inquirers, thinkers, communicators, and risk-takers, is explored gradually. Through stories, play, and collaborative activities, children learn what it means to help others, make thoughtful choices, express themselves, and approach challenges with curiosity and courage.

Gus the Lion also supports children in developing important life skills: self-awareness, empathy, resilience, and a sense of responsibility. By engaging with these values early, students start to see themselves as part of a wider world, cultivating an internationally minded perspective that encourages respect, curiosity, and understanding across cultures.

Through this nurturing and playful introduction to the IB Learner Profile, our Early Years students grow into compassionate, confident, and globally aware problem-solvers, ready to take their next steps in learning with curiosity, creativity, and care.



## OUR ETHOS

### Our Ethos: The Dwight Early Years Experience

At Dwight School Dubai, our Early Years ethos is shaped by three essential pillars: the learner, the facilitator, and the environment. Together, they create meaningful, child-led learning experiences.

#### The Learner

Our children are independent, confident, and naturally curious. They take ownership of their learning journey, embrace challenges, and develop resilience as risk-takers unafraid to make mistakes. They communicate with clarity and empathy, and their voices are always valued and respected.

#### The Facilitator

Our educators step back to let children lead their learning, guiding and inspiring inquiry. We ask thoughtful questions, design purposeful learning experiences, and use assessment strategically to support growth. As internationally minded professionals, we collaborate, share best practices, and continually develop our skills, modelling lifelong learning for our students. Parents and the wider community are valued partners in this journey.

#### The Environment

Our classrooms are calm, natural, and home-like, giving children a sense of belonging. Open-ended, sustainable resources spark curiosity, and learning is displayed at the child's level, reflecting their choices and voice. Diversity is celebrated, and Arabic is meaningfully embedded as the language of our land. Our environments promote ownership, inspire inquiry, and extend seamlessly into the outdoors, where children connect with nature, explore, and play.



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Our Early Years faculty are highly qualified, experienced, and passionate educators, supported by Learning Support Assistants. They create engaging, nurturing classrooms where every child is encouraged to explore, take risks, and reach their full potential.

We see parents as essential partners in this journey. Through weekly updates, photos, and an open-door policy, families are kept connected and involved, helping ensure every child feels supported, valued, and celebrated.

Learning at Dwight extends far beyond daily lessons. Our Early Years extra-curricular activities programme allows children to explore new interests, develop talents, and build confidence in a fun, supportive environment. Activities are designed to complement the curriculum, fostering creativity, curiosity, collaboration, and a love of learning

Each term, our youngest learners enjoy a wide range of playful, engaging experiences, including:

- Creative Arts & Expression – art exploration, dance, and mini makers encourage imagination, creativity, and fine motor skills.
- Physical Development – gross motor activities, movement, swimming, and sports help develop coordination, balance, and a love of being active.
- Language & Communication – storytelling, role play, and early language clubs build confidence in speaking, listening, and self-expression.

Through these opportunities, children extend their learning, express their creativity, and develop a lifelong love of exploration, all in a joyful and supportive setting.



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### For further information

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