

## Targheeb Prekindergarten | YMOH Curriculum

### General Overview:

Targheeb's Young Momins Online Homeschool (YMOH) program is designed to provide thorough and appropriate instructions for Kindergarten through first and sixth grade students in English language arts/literacy and Mathematics. Using the best of both, the British National Curriculum and American Common Core Standards, YMOH curriculum is a robust standard-based curriculum designed to align with the most current international and national learning standards thereby benefiting YMOH students in a great way. It is uniquely implemented to meet core Islamic values.

The curriculum is delivered to meet Islamic values, goals and considers Islamic Studies, Arabic Studies and the Qur'an to be equally important as English Language Arts and Mathematics. Science and Social Studies are also introduced as cross curricular subjects to develop essential knowledge, skills and practices.

We believe that a child's education begins at an early age. Therefore we have designed our Prekindergarten curriculum with the mindset that all children have the ability to learn, achieve, and progress regardless of language, cultural background, and economic differences. The success of each child depends on appropriate support that will enable the child to develop at their own rate and acquisition of skills. Young children learn through meaningful play. Our curriculum offers a program that encourages children to use their senses to learn about the world around them. A rich learning experience is promoted through the connections children make across the following areas of study: phonics, language arts, spelling and vocabulary, speaking and listening, reading, writing, math, science, social studies, Islamic studies, Quran with Tajweed, and Arabic. Each area of study is presented in a way that can be taught as a single course or combined for a full course of study for children between three and four years old.

### English Language

The YMOH Prekindergarten English Language program was developed to provide young learners the foundations for success in reading and writing.

#### Phonics:

The curriculum introduces phonological awareness in the following areas: consonants, sound symbol relationship, word families, and short and long vowels.

**Phonological awareness:** word awareness, blend syllables, initial sound, initial consonants, sound discrimination, rhyme, alliteration, sound symbol relationship, final consonants, syllable awareness and blending, and onset and rime.

#### Language Arts:

YMOH Language Arts course brings about the understanding of language in use. Children begin to demonstrate understanding of language and reading comprehension through a series of activities that incorporate multiple subject areas. Including Science, Math, and Social Studies. Short sentences and stories promote the use of frequently occurring nouns and verbs and the use

of various grammatical structures in oral communication.

### **Spelling and Vocabulary:**

The YMOH Prekindergarten Spelling and Vocabulary curriculum is designed to enhance pre-reading and language arts skills. Learning activities build upon the learners' knowledge of the alphabet and their ability to recognize the beginning and the ending sounds in words. Picture study encourages students to describe what they see and promotes independent use of vocabulary and language. This program also includes extensive lists of sight words from the Eeman Reading Series to promote recognition of frequently occurring words, such as number and color words, and everyday items.

### **Reading:**

In the Reading course, recognition of each letter is built through a series of activities that include learning vocabulary with words that contain the given letter, matching uppercase and lowercase letters, and writing the given letter. Learning is enhanced through the use of technological resources, such as online level reading programs and computer activities. A number of reading skills are encouraged in young learners to build a foundation for reading proficiency in elementary school. Some of the strategies for reading and reading comprehension that are used at the prekindergarten level are given below.

#### **Reading Strategy** (through speaking and listening):

Visualize, make, revise, and confirm predictions, connect to prior knowledge, self-monitor, retell.

**Reading Comprehension** (through speaking and listening): Main idea and details, compare and contrast, classify information, reality and fantasy, sequence events, ask and answer questions, make inferences, problem and solution, identify character, setting and plot, identify setting, story elements, cause and effect, and analyze character.

### **Writing:**

The prekindergarten program provides learners with a number of pre-writing activities to promote the development of the necessary physical skills needed for good handwriting that lead to the formation of uppercase and lowercase letters.

### **Math**

The YMOH Math Prekindergarten curriculum provides young learners with the foundations for success in elementary school mathematics.

#### **Number and Operations:**

This course begins with building recognition of numbers from 1 to 10. Learners practice forming these numbers, counting objects, using tally marks, and more. The students' number skills are used further in the addition and subtraction unit. Children learn to use a number line, add one more or one less, and sequencing numbers.

#### **Colors, Shapes, and Patterns:**

In this unit, students will learn about colors, shapes and patterns. Various activities help children identify common objects of a particular color, distinguish items of one color from others, and mix primary colors to make new ones. Young learners also explore eight shapes: circle, triangle, square, rectangle, star, oval, diamond, and heart. Children learn to identify common objects of a

particular shape, match everyday items to a corresponding shape, and draw and combine shapes to make simple pictures. Building upon their knowledge of colors and patterns, children begin exploring patterns. In this unit, various patterns are presented in which the student must complete the pattern by drawing what comes next or filling in the missing part of the pattern. Learners are also encouraged to make their own repeating pattern.

### **Positions and Measurements:**

In the Positions & Measurement unit, children learn to use right and left to show direction. Other vocabulary introduced in this unit includes above and below, up and down, over and under, and in and out. Moreover, students begin to explore measurement using conventional and non-conventional measuring tools and classify objects as being either heavy or light. Learners are presented with groups of objects that encourage them to compare using fewer or more. Other vocabulary introduced in this unit includes tall, short, full and empty.

### **Time and Money:**

The Time & Money unit connects students with the science topic (four seasons) as it relates to time within a year. Students also learn the days of the week and months of the Gregorian calendar year. Learners also gain a basic understanding of how money is used, how to count coins to match the price of a given item, and how to compare the value of coins to determine which one is worth more or less.

### **Science**

The Science course contains four basic units: earth science, life science, health and fitness, and environmental science.

#### **Earth Science:**

In the Earth Science unit, children will reinforce their knowledge of Tawheed by looking at the signs of Allah's existence in creation. Signs such as the sun, moon, stars, the earth, and the transitions of day and night. Children are introduced to basic information about the earth and will connect these concepts to their own lives by exploring nature in their own environments. Young learners will also investigate the four seasons of the year: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. They will learn about the weather in each season and practice using appropriate vocabulary to describe the weather.

#### **Life Science:**

The Life Science provides concepts, vocabulary, and activities in which students understand that people are living beings who grow and change and that living things need air, water, food, and a home to survive. The unit helps children distinguish between living and non-living things. They will also learn about the parts of plants, the basic stages of the plant life cycle, and what plants need to grow. Children also learn about the types of animals and their needs, habitats, food, sounds, names of animal babies and special features. They will learn how to distinguish between animals that eat plants and animals that eat other animals. As they progress through the Life Science unit, youngsters will learn about themselves: what humans need to grow and how we change as we grow. They will study basic body parts and explore the five senses and how they help them learn. As they study their body parts, students will connect to their action and responsibilities.

#### **Health and Fitness:**

The Health and Fitness unit provides a basic understanding of how we should take good care of our bodies. Children explore why people need food and how to make healthy food choices.

Various learning activities are used to foster good habits that promote healthy living such as etiquettes of eating, drinking, and toileting and encourage physical activity through play. Other topics include keeping our bodies, hair, nails and teeth clean, the importance of exercise, healthy food habits, and foods that give us energy.

Hands-on activities are a major part of the curriculum. Skills such as pencil grip and cutting with children's scissors develop the children's fine motor skills.

### **Environmental Science:**

The Environmental Science unit exposes children to the issues of environmental safety and protection. Children will learn about recycling and identify things that they can do to help keep our planet clean and conserve resources.

### **Social Studies**

The YMOH Social Studies Prekindergarten course builds social awareness in young children that includes road safety, weather, societal norms, and learning about different creatures and how we relate to them. The topics covered in this course bring about an understanding of family and family structure and the role of the child in the family. Topics such as members of the family and caring for one another are explored. Children also learn about homes and how each room in a house has a function. This leads to an exploration of a town/city and the different locations that people visit to take care of their daily needs. Furthermore, students are encouraged to think about jobs they may want to have when they grow up.

Other topics in the Social Studies program include country and city life and transportation. Students get a glimpse of life on a farm in contrast to life in a city. Children are encouraged to explore old and new ways of getting around on land, on water, and in the air.

### **Islamic Studies**

The Islamic Studies Prekindergarten program covers the three fundamentals beliefs that every Muslim should know:

#### 1. Who is your Lord?

Children will learn answers to questions such as Who created the Sun and the Moon? , What do we know about Allah? Where is Allah? Does Allah know everything? And what does Allah want from us? Through this process children will explore signs of Allah's existence, gain an understanding that He is the Creator, and learn the basics of Allah's names and attributes.

#### 2. Who is your Prophet?

Children will also learn about the Seerah through an age-appropriate version of Prophet Muhammad's (Peace and blessing be upon him) biography along with etiquette of sending Salaams, or salutations, upon him when he is mentioned.

#### 3. What is your religion?

Students will learn about the five pillars of Islam and the importance of following the Quran and Sunnah. They will also become familiar with the Salat through activities that bring about the answers to questions like Why do we pray? What times of day do we pray? What is wudhoo? What is the Adhaan and Iqaamah? What movements do we make during our prayer?

Furthermore, fun learning activities will help children make the connection between their daily lives and various topics such as the two Eids, remembering Allah, having good manners, cleanliness, and kindness. Evidences from the Quran and authentic hadeeth support lessons.

### **Quran with Tajweed**

The Quran with Tajweed Prekindergarten program fosters the love of Allah in young children through His remembrance. In this course students will study a beautiful selection of easy to learn athkar and duas (remembrances and supplications). Children will also learn duas that can be practiced throughout the day in specific situations that include when waking up, going to bed, at the start of a meal, after completing a meal, greeting a Muslim, getting dressed or undressed, leaving the home, relieving one's self, after sneezing, travelling, and thanking others. Lessons are supported by verses from the Quran and authentic hadeeth.

### **Arabic**

Arabic is the language of the Quran, and therefore should have a special place in the heart of every Muslim. In addition to learning Arabic for religious reasons, learning a foreign language at an early age challenges students to stretch their capabilities and supports the development of creativity, mental flexibility, and critical thinking. Young children have a greater capacity to learn languages; therefore, prekindergarten is the ideal age to begin a dual-language program.

At YMOH, we hope to build life-long learners of the Arabic language starting with our Arabic Prekindergarten program. In this course, children will learn the foundations of reading starting with learning the Arabic alphabet. Each letter is then explored further by building Arabic vocabulary through words that begin with each letter sound. Children will also learn the basic sounds for each letter: fat'ha, kasra, and dhamma. Reading and writing activities enhance letter recognition and strengthens fine motor skills. In addition to building reading and writing capabilities, listening skills can also be fostered through short stories that emphasize each letter using several words that begin with the letter being studied.

### **Practical Life exercises for homeschoolers:**

Practical Life plays a major role in the first stages of a child's development as it is connected to the activities he sees in his surroundings, and particularly his home.

In the first stage he should be given the opportunity to participate or assist in small movements such carry light objects, roll and unroll a mat, pouring grains and water jug to a jug, washing his hand and so on in the right manner so that he will also learn to judge and calculate time and measure indirectly.

With time and practice, it would allow the child to become independent of things that he could do on his own including folding a napkin, tie shoe laces, zip and unzip, buck and unbuckle and help in other activities at home.

In addition to the above, his lessons will also include skills such as holding a pencil or crayon for drawing or coloring, putting small objects in order, solving puzzles, identifying the difference between two similar objects or missing items art and craft where he will learn to cut, glue and paste and others.

Finally, good behavior comes from home where he practices his social behavior inside and outside of his home and should learn and imitate simple courtesies or phrases such as 'I am sorry'; 'please help me'; 'thank you', 'insha Allah'; 'Jazaak Allahu Khairan' and 'Al Hamdulillah'.

