

Galway Social Studies Curriculum Guide Kindergarten

Level K: Self and Others

The social studies program at the kindergarten level focuses on helping students develop awareness of themselves as growing individuals. Children's unique qualities as well as similarities to others are stressed. Children learn about values, ideas, customs, and traditions through folktales, legends, music, and oral histories. In addition, children's relationships with others in the classroom and the school become sources for social studies learning. Social interaction skills are integral to the kindergarten program. Emphasis is placed on using content that is relevant and personally meaningful. A wide range of interdisciplinary activities can help children grow and develop and gain knowledge and skills. Children also begin to learn about their role as citizens by accepting rights and responsibilities in the classroom and by learning about rules and laws.

Myself and others

- My physical self includes gender, ethnicity, and languages.
- Each person has needs, wants, talents, and abilities.
- Each person has likes and dislikes.
- Each person is unique and important.
- People are alike and different in many ways.
- All people need others.
- All people need to learn and learn in different ways.
- People change over time.
- People use folktales, legends, music, and oral histories to teach values, ideas, and traditions.

My family and other families

- My family and other families are alike and different.

My school and school community

- What is a school?

My neighborhood

- My neighborhood can be located on a map.
- Different people live in my neighborhood.

Location of home, school, neighborhood, and community on maps and globes

- Land and water masses can be located on maps and a globe.
- The United States can be located on a map and a globe.

Basic human needs and wants

- People define basic human needs and wants.
- Families have needs and wants.

People helping one another to meet needs and wants (e.g., recycling and conservation projects)

- People rely on each other for goods and services in families, schools, and the neighborhood.
- People make economic decisions and choices.

Symbols of citizenship

- Citizenship includes an awareness of the symbols of our nation.
- Citizenship includes an understanding of the holidays and celebrations of our nation.
- Citizenship includes knowledge about and a respect for the flag of the United States of America.

Rights, responsibilities, and roles of citizenship

- All children and adults have responsibilities at home, in school, in the classroom, and in the community.
- People have responsibilities as members of different groups at different times in their lives.

People making and changing rules and laws

- Rules affect children and adults.
- People make and changes rules for many reasons.

People making rules that involve consideration of others and provide for the health and safety of all

- Families develop rules to govern and protect family members.
- People in school groups develop rules to govern and protect themselves.