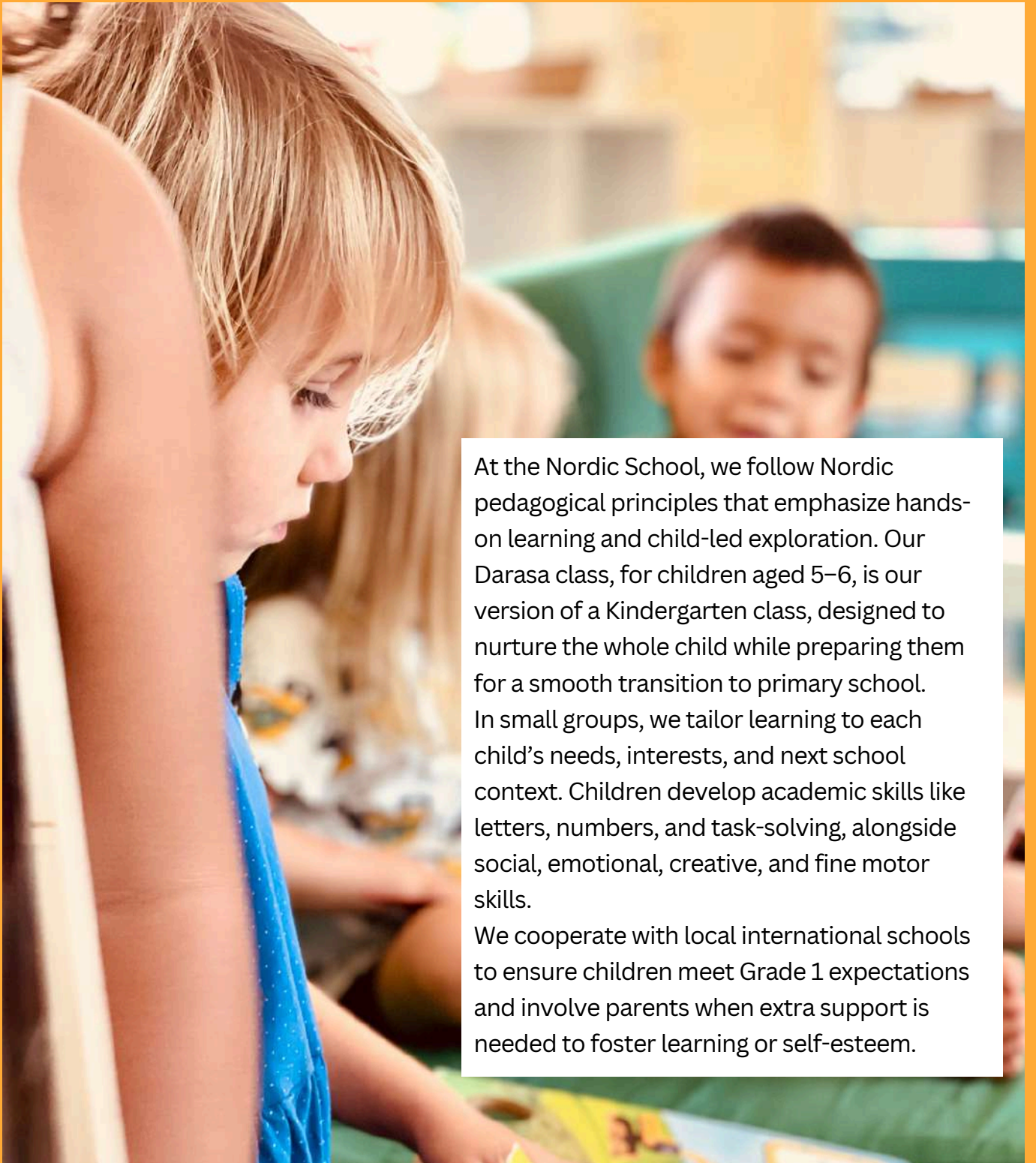


THE NORDIC SCHOOL



# DARASA CURRICULUM



At the Nordic School, we follow Nordic pedagogical principles that emphasize hands-on learning and child-led exploration. Our Darasa class, for children aged 5–6, is our version of a Kindergarten class, designed to nurture the whole child while preparing them for a smooth transition to primary school. In small groups, we tailor learning to each child’s needs, interests, and next school context. Children develop academic skills like letters, numbers, and task-solving, alongside social, emotional, creative, and fine motor skills.

We cooperate with local international schools to ensure children meet Grade 1 expectations and involve parents when extra support is needed to foster learning or self-esteem.

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# DARASA

The Darasa class is designed to support each child's academic, social, emotional, physical, and language development while preparing them for primary school. With small groups, we can adapt learning to each child's pace, interests, and next school setting. Children develop essential skills including letters, numbers, task-solving, concentration, cooperation, creativity, fine motor skills, and a love for learning. We also address broader skills such as self-esteem and independence. This holistic approach ensures that children are not only academically ready but also socially, emotionally, and physically prepared to thrive in Grade 1. Darasa takes place twice per week.

## MATHEMATICS

### *Introduction to:*

- Numbers and their sequences
- Understanding numbers before, after, and between
- Matching numbers and items (quantities)
- Identifying missing numbers in sequences
- Number words
- Counting items and objects
- Differentiating between countable and uncountable objects
- Simple addition
- Counting forward & backward on number lines
- Recognition of shapes and sizes
- Matching shapes with names
- Identifying shapes in different objects
- Comparison of shapes based on size and properties
- Measurements
- Sorting & classifying objects based on attributes (size, color, shapes)
- Understanding parts and wholes through concrete examples
- Introduction to the concept of time
- Basics of reading analog and digital clocks
- Exercise on telling time to the hour and half-hour

Learning numbers and shapes is a fundamental skill for children that forms the basis for various aspects of their cognitive development. It provides a solid foundation for mathematical and cognitive skills, enhances problem-solving abilities, and facilitates their engagement with the world around them.

# LETTERS AND LANGUAGE

## *Introduction to:*

- Letters of the alphabet
- Learning phonetics sounds associated with each letter
- Differentiating between vowel and consonants
- Practice writing block and lowercase letters
- Sequence of letters in the alphabet
- Identifying letters that come before and after a given letter
- Developing listening skills through storytelling sessions
- Creating stories using pictures and drama
- Filling in missing words in sentences to enhance comprehension
- Introducing basic reading skills
- Practicing reading simple sentences
- Simple dictation
- Exploring songs, rhymes, and poems to develop oral language skills
- Naming objects and things around the environment that start with specific letters
- Asking and answering open-ended questions to encourage communication
- Understanding the concept of alliteration through fun activities and games
- Making/creating longer sentences

Learning letters is a crucial developmental milestone for young children. Learning letters is a foundational skill that paves the way for reading, writing, and overall cognitive development in small children. It opens doors for a lifetime of learning. Language development is a key part of a child's cognitive development. It's not only essential for effective communication but also plays a vital role in cognitive, social, and academic development, preparing children for success in various aspects of life.



## ARTS AND CRAFTS

### *Explore through*

- Themed activities
- Fine motor skills (cutting, gluing, drawing, etc.)
- Collage making using various materials as paper, fabric and found objects.

Incorporating arts and crafts into the curriculum provides a holistic approach to learning that nurtures their creativity, cognitive development, emotional well-being, and social skills. It makes learning fun and engaging while laying the foundation for their future academic success.

## SCIENCE

### *Introduce children to science through engaging activities:*

- Conduct simple science experiments to explore concepts such as gravity, buoyancy, and magnetism.
- Observations of natural phenomena, such as weather, plants, and animals.
- Sensory exploration of textures, smells, and sounds.
- Simple kitchen experiments, such as observing different liquids interact or separate (water, oil, syrup, etc.)

Implementing inquiry-based science learning for children cultivate their innate curiosity and encourage active exploration and investigation of scientific phenomena. Through hands-on experiments, questioning, and discovery, we aim to promote a deeper understanding of scientific concepts and processes, while fostering skills in observation, experimentation, and critical thinking.



## CULTURAL EXPLORATION

*Foster a sense of cultural curiosity and appreciation by:*

- Introducing to different countries, cities, and continents through maps, books, and multimedia resources.
- Diverse locations and their unique features.
- Country, city, and continents.
- Expand the children's perspective of the intercultural environment they are growing up in.

Teaching children about culture fosters their understanding, appreciation, and respect for diverse cultural perspectives, traditions, and customs. By introducing them to various cultures at an early age, we aim to promote cultural sensitivity, empathy, and inclusivity, laying the foundation for global citizenship and fostering a sense of belonging in an increasingly diverse world.



## PROMOTING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL COMPETENCES

The Nordic School want to equip the children with the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to understand and manage their emotions, cultivate empathy and compassion for others, build positive relationships, and navigate social challenges effectively. By fostering social and emotional competence, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment conducive to learning and growth.

### *Listening*

- Learning to listen is an important skill for children, and it provides several important benefits for their personal and social development. It contributes to their social skills, emotional intelligence, and prepares them for the future.

## *Teamwork and communication*

Fostering teamwork and communication skills through group projects involves creating opportunities for children to collaborate, communicate, and work together towards a common goal. It fosters social and emotional development, enhances problem-solving abilities, and promotes relationships with others.

## *Taking turns*

Learning to take turns is an essential social skill for children, and it holds various benefits for their overall development. It's a fundamental aspect of social, emotional, and cognitive development that lays groundwork for positive interactions and success in various aspects of life.

## *Thinking about thinking*

Nurture the cognitive development of children by introducing the concept of metacognition, or "thinking about thinking", through interactive and age-appropriate activities. Encourage them to explore their own thought processes, understand how they learn and develop strategies for problem-solving and self-regulation. Foster a foundation for lifelong learning by promoting reflection, curiosity, and self-awareness.

## *Reflection*

Teaching children about reflection involves helping them develop the ability to think about their experiences, actions, and feelings in a thoughtful and purposeful way.

## *Concentration*

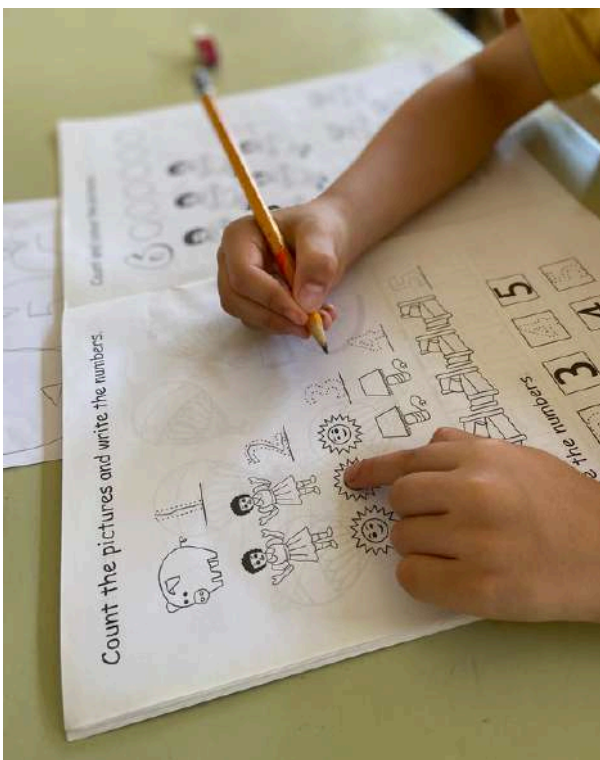
Learning to concentrate is an important skill for effective learning. Children who can focus on a task are better able to absorb and retain information. Concentration enhances memory, problem solving skills, and resilience, contributing to a well-rounded skill set.

## *Memory*

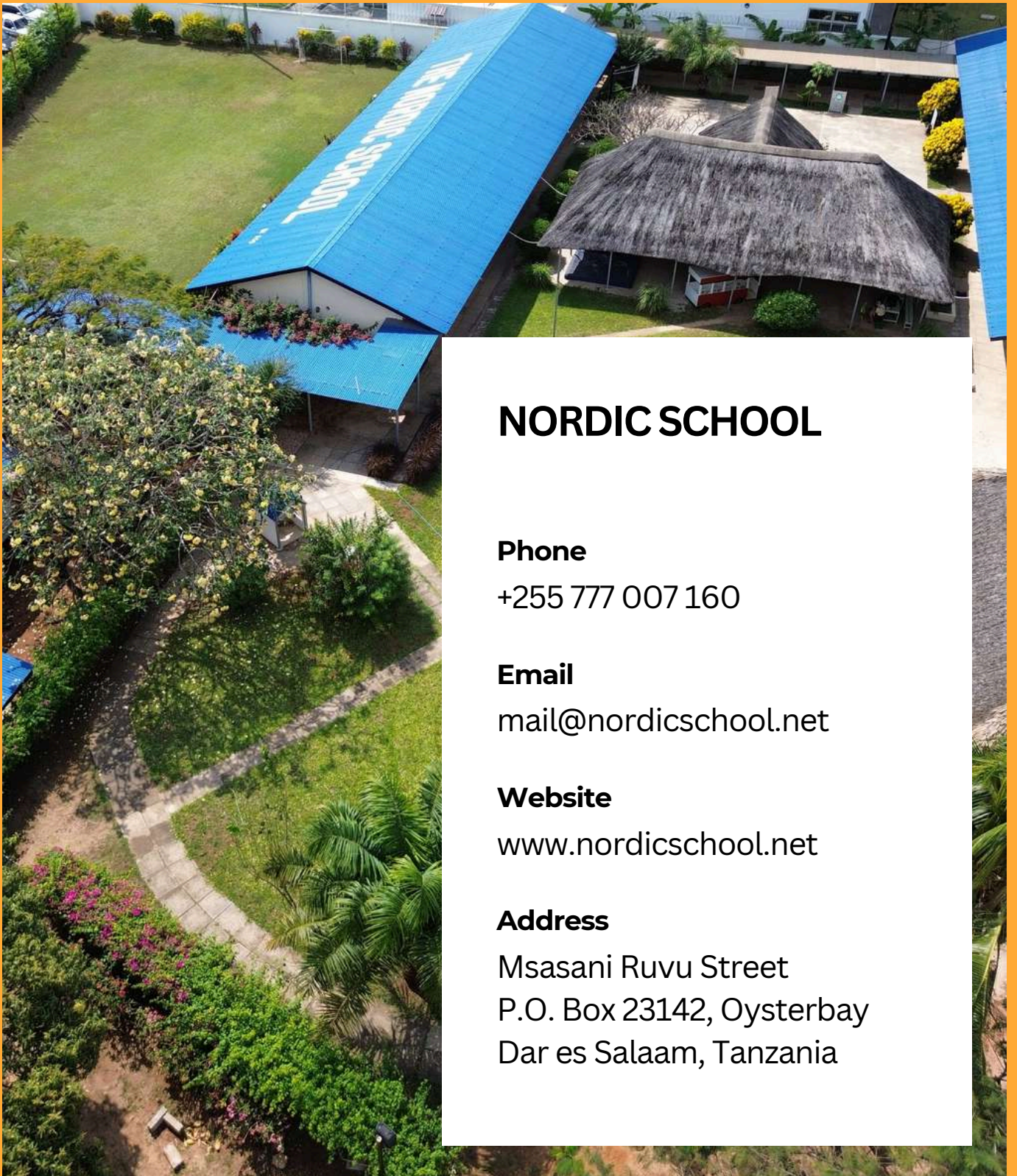
Memory plays a fundamental role in a child's cognitive development, academic success, and overall well-being. Learning and developing memory skills are integral to a child's overall cognitive development and adaptability in various life situations. Memory serves as a key component in the learning process and supports a range of cognitive functions essential for a well-rounded and successful individual.

# ASSESSMENT

The Nordic School believes that formal, standardized assessment too narrowly and oftentimes unfairly describes children. Therefore, the school has a long tradition of using informal assessment measures to capture and describe children's well-being and development. Teachers focus on getting to know children in the context of their play and in their interactions in small groups in order to observe, reflect on and document children's interests, thinking, learning, and needs. They then use these records and documentation to provide differentiated goals that relate to socio-emotional well-being as well as to specific learning areas. These records and documentation are also instrumental in formulating activities, determining teaching methods, developing learning environments, and planning structured parent teacher conferences.



# CONTACT US



## **NORDIC SCHOOL**

### **Phone**

+255 777 007 160

### **Email**

[mail@nordicschool.net](mailto:mail@nordicschool.net)

### **Website**

[www.nordicschool.net](http://www.nordicschool.net)

### **Address**

Msasani Ruvu Street  
P.O. Box 23142, Oysterbay  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania