

THE MASTERY SERIES **Preschool Curriculum Overview**

Executive Summary

Nursery • Preschool • Kindergarten

Mathematics • Phonics

The **Mastery Series** is a developmental early childhood curriculum designed to build essential foundations in **Mathematics and Phonics** across three progressive levels: **Nursery, Preschool, and Kindergarten**.

The six-book series combines **Teacher Guides with accompanying Student Books**, providing educators with a structured pathway from early exploration and recognition toward increasingly independent application, reasoning, reading, writing, and problem solving.

At the heart of the Mastery Series is a simple principle:

Children learn progressively.

Concepts and skills are introduced through concrete, engaging experiences; revisited through guided practice; strengthened through multisensory application; and extended as children move from Nursery to Preschool and Kindergarten.

The result is a connected learning pathway in which each level prepares children for the expectations of the next.

A DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAY

The Mastery Series is organized around three broad developmental stages:

NURSERY — FOUNDATION

Experience → Explore → Recognize → Name → Match → Respond

Nursery introduces children to foundational concepts through **play, movement, stories, songs, manipulatives, sensory experiences, art, conversation, and teacher-guided Student Book activities**.

The emphasis is on helping children notice, recognize, name, match, count, listen, speak, trace, and participate.

In Mathematics, children develop early number sense and encounter numbers, quantities, colors, shapes, classification, sequencing, and mathematical language through concrete experiences.

In Phonics, children develop alphabet awareness, recognize uppercase and lowercase letters, hear and produce target sounds, associate sounds with familiar vocabulary, and begin forming letters through multisensory experiences.

PRESCHOOL — DEVELOPMENT & APPLICATION

Recognize → Identify → Match → Classify → Sequence → Represent → Apply

Preschool builds on these foundations by increasing children's ability to **identify, discriminate, classify, represent, sequence, communicate, and apply** what they know.

Children continue to learn through active and multisensory experiences, while Student Book activities increasingly require them to demonstrate their understanding through matching, tracing, writing, sorting, counting, sequencing, and problem solving.

In Mathematics, children strengthen number recognition and quantity relationships, work with number words and sequences, explore shapes and colors, sort and classify objects, and represent mathematical ideas through increasingly purposeful written and visual activities.

In Phonics, children strengthen alphabet knowledge and letter–sound relationships through beginning–sound discrimination, uppercase and lowercase matching, vocabulary, oral language, handwriting, alphabet sequencing, and cumulative review.

KINDERGARTEN — INTEGRATION & MASTERY

Analyze → Compare → Represent → Read → Write → Reason → Apply

Kindergarten extends children's foundational knowledge into more complex application.

Children are increasingly expected to use what they know to **analyze relationships, solve problems, communicate ideas, read and write familiar words, make comparisons, recognize patterns, and apply learning in new contexts.**

In Mathematics, the curriculum develops number sense and numeration, counting and quantity, number order, comparison, early operations, patterns, geometry, classification, measurement, ordinal numbers, time, money, mathematical language, and reasoning. Core number work develops through **0–20**, with additional counting experiences extending beyond that core range.

In Phonics, children progress from individual letter–sound relationships toward **beginning, middle, and ending sound analysis; short vowels; sound blending; simple word reading and writing; rhyming; word families; vocabulary; sentence development; and early comprehension.**

TWO CURRICULUM PATHWAYS

MATHEMATICS

Across the three levels, Mathematics develops from concrete exploration toward increasingly symbolic and applied mathematical thinking.

NURSERY

Early Number Sense • Counting • Colors • Shapes • Matching • Classification • Sequencing • Mathematical Language

↓

PRESCHOOL

Number & Quantity • Number Representation • Number Words • Sequencing • Geometry • Colors • Sorting & Classification • Spatial Concepts • Early Reasoning

↓

KINDERGARTEN

Number Sense & Numeration • Number Order • Comparison • Early Operations • Patterns • Geometry • Classification • Measurement • Ordinal Numbers • Time • Money • Mathematical Reasoning

The progression can be summarized as:

Experience Mathematics → Recognize Mathematics → Represent Mathematics → Apply Mathematics → Reason Mathematically

Children therefore move from interacting with numbers, shapes, colors, objects, and quantities toward representing mathematical ideas and using those ideas to compare, order, measure, calculate, classify, and solve increasingly complex problems.

PHONICS

Across the three levels, Phonics develops from alphabet and sound awareness toward early reading and writing.

NURSERY

Alphabet Awareness • Letter Recognition • Letter Sounds • Uppercase/Lowercase Matching • Beginning-Sound Vocabulary • Oral Language • Emerging Letter Formation

↓

PRESCHOOL

Alphabet Knowledge • Letter–Sound Relationships • Beginning-Sound Discrimination • Vocabulary • Oral Language • Letter Formation • Alphabet Sequence • Cumulative Review

<https://libertyeducation.co>

↓

KINDERGARTEN

Beginning, Middle & Ending Sounds • Short Vowels • Sound Blending • Simple Word Reading • Rhyming • Word Families • Word Writing • Sentence Development • Early Comprehension

The progression can be summarized as:

Hear → Recognize → Connect → Discriminate → Analyze → Blend → Read → Write → Understand

By Kindergarten, phonics knowledge is increasingly applied within words rather than remaining focused on individual letters. Children begin analyzing where sounds occur, blending sounds together, reading and writing simple words, identifying rhyming relationships, and recognizing recurring word patterns.

HOW CHILDREN LEARN

The Mastery Series uses a **multisensory, active, language-rich approach** across both curriculum areas.

Teacher Guide lessons regularly combine:

Stories & Rhymes • Songs & Movement • Teacher Modeling • Discussion • Manipulatives • Games • Art & Craft • Sensory Exploration • Fine-Motor Activities • Gross-Motor Activities • STEAM Connections • Learning Centers • Student Book Practice

This approach allows children to encounter a concept in more than one way.

A child may first **hear** a concept in a story, **say** it during discussion, **see** it represented visually, **experience** it through movement or manipulatives, **create** something connected with it, and finally **record or apply** the learning in the Student Book.

The Teacher Guide and Student Book therefore function as complementary curriculum components:

Teacher Guide

Experience • Model • Discuss • Explore • Practice

↓

Student Book

Recognize • Match • Trace • Write • Represent • Apply

WHOLE-CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Although the Mastery Series is organized around Mathematics and Phonics, the learning experiences intentionally connect with multiple areas of early childhood development.

Activities throughout the Teacher Guides integrate:

Cognitive Development — observation, memory, matching, classification, sequencing, reasoning and problem solving

Language Development — vocabulary, listening, questioning, description, conversation and sentence construction

Fine-Motor Development — tracing, writing, cutting, pasting, painting and manipulating materials

Gross-Motor Development — walking, jumping, hopping, balancing, movement games and action songs

Social-Emotional Development — cooperation, turn-taking, sharing, expressing ideas and participating in group experiences

Creative Development — drawing, painting, construction, collage, music, movement and dramatic play

STEAM Exploration — investigation of objects, animals, plants, materials, measurement, patterns, sensory experiences and real-world phenomena

These connections allow Mathematics and Phonics to be experienced within the broader developmental context of the young child rather than as isolated academic subjects.

A CONNECTED THREE-LEVEL CURRICULUM

The defining structure of the Mastery Series is its **continuity across levels**.

Learning does not restart when children move from Nursery to Preschool or from Preschool to Kindergarten. Foundational concepts are revisited with increasing expectations for recognition, language, representation, independence, application, and reasoning.

NURSERY

Build the Foundation

Children experience, explore, recognize, name and respond.

↓ PRESCHOOL

Develop and Apply

<https://libertyeducation.co>

Children identify, discriminate, match, classify, sequence, represent and apply.

↓ **KINDERGARTEN**

Integrate and Extend

Children analyze, compare, blend, read, write, solve, reason and communicate.

This creates a coherent developmental pathway:

FOUNDATION → DEVELOPMENT → APPLICATION → INTEGRATION

The Mastery Series therefore provides teachers, school leaders, and curriculum decision-makers with a clear view of **what children are learning, how learning develops across levels, how the Teacher Guide and Student Book work together, and how foundational knowledge is progressively extended toward school readiness.**