



BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN

AGES 3 - 5



PLAY. LEARN. GROW.
YOUR CHILD AT TASIS PORTUGAL

WELCOME, FUTURE KNIGHTS!



TASIS Portugal is the newest campus in the TASIS family of schools, founded in Switzerland in 1956 by educator and entrepreneur M. Crist Fleming and financially supported by the nonprofit TASIS Foundation. TASIS (Switzerland) was the first American boarding school in Europe, and all TASIS schools maintain the tenets on which it was founded: truth, goodness, and beauty.

Our longstanding traditions, combined with a genuine love of children and their unique qualities, make TASIS Portugal a beautiful place for your child to play, learn, and grow.

At TASIS Portugal, we believe the earliest years are just as important as the upper grades, so we focus on developing a love of learning. Carefully planned activities build on a curriculum that, while age appropriate, introduces big ideas early.

We provide opportunities for children to learn through hands-on play while developing curiosity, problem-solving skills, and emotional maturity. This strong foundation prepares students well for their TASIS Portugal Elementary School experience. We teach children to question; one of our favorite words to hear is “why”.

At TASIS Portugal, we raise caring, curious, and competent global citizens in partnership with parents. I invite you to discover more about our special community with a visit to our campus.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KC", followed by a horizontal line.

Keith Chicquen, Headmaster



THE ELC ADVANTAGE

Learning to Read

Learning to read is not a skill that develops naturally—it must be taught explicitly. The first step is learning that words are made up of individual speech sounds, called phonemes. Phonemic awareness is a well-researched predictor of later reading success. At TASIS Portugal, ELC students practice phonological awareness skills in a fun, engaging manner using the *Heggerty Curriculum™*. The ELC years provide students with a solid foundation in reading skills that helps them become successful readers.

Social-Emotional Learning

Self-regulation is the ability to attend to and adjust emotions, thoughts, and behaviors. It is a good predictor of academic and social success, helping students pay attention in class and get along with teachers and friends. At TASIS Portugal, during the ELC years, we focus on building a strong foundation in social-emotional learning, which includes self-regulation (following the ELLI framework), mindfulness, and a growth mindset. For students who require additional social-emotional support, we have a dedicated pastoral team that includes an experienced school counselor.

Fine and Gross Motor Skills

Besides offering a “typical” array of activities designed to develop young students’ fine motor skills, such as building blocks, coloring, painting, and playdough, we also place a strong emphasis on handwriting skills, which remain important even in our high-tech age. We use *Handwriting Without Tears™*, a curriculum designed by an occupational therapist, to instill handwriting confidence in young learners. In addition to fine motor skill development, we also focus on gross motor skills. Students practice these skills during physical education classes, dance lessons, and yoga in class. There is a wide array of active after-school activities available to them, and they regularly explore the outdoors during forest school outings.

English Immersion

For students who are not yet fluent in English, the ELC provides an English immersion environment and a head start in an international school community. Multilingual co-teachers and assistants ensure rapid English language development. For students who may still require English support upon entering Elementary School, we have a dedicated student support team that works efficiently and effectively to help students achieve proficiency, typically within two years on average.



The Best Preparation for Elementary School

Students who transition from our ELC to the Elementary School at TASIS Portugal enjoy distinct advantages academically, socially, and linguistically.

BUILDING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Core Knowledge Curriculum®

The *Core Knowledge (CK) Curriculum* is a sequential, content-rich curriculum that covers language arts (reading and writing), history and geography, art, and music. Its philosophy is based on the idea that knowledge builds upon knowledge.



Singapore Math

We utilize *Singapore Math*, widely considered the most effective method of teaching mathematics. As we introduce math, students learn to use manipulatives and apply their mathematical knowledge across other content areas, gaining familiarity with the concepts necessary for deep problem-solving. By teaching children the "why" before the "how", we make skill building enjoyable and accessible.



Next Generation Science Standards

Our Early Learning Center students begin to learn the principles of science through exploration and experimentation. The outdoor classroom is designed to facilitate their understanding of basic concepts such as measurement, hypothesis, cause and effect, and more. We prioritize a fun and engaging approach to science, focusing on enjoyment rather than competition.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Our Early Learning Center uniquely emphasizes outdoor learning, incorporating the principles of forest school, a nature-based program that prioritizes holistic child development and inspires learning, including environmental stewardship. We have a dedicated woodland garden and outdoor classroom designed for forest school sessions, where children can explore and discover natural materials, observe and interact with wildlife.



A WORLD OF EXPLORATION

Physical Education

We believe physical education is as important to a child's growth, health, and development as other core subjects. Our physical education program follows the *SHAPE America Curriculum*, designed to meet the needs of all students. SHAPE America focuses on keeping students active while teaching self-management and emphasizing knowledge and skills for a lifetime. Physical activity is a crucial part of developing our students' fine and gross motor skills and overall well-being. Throughout our program, we strive to promote this in a fun-filled way.



Sports Hall

Visual Art

Through artistic expressions such as painting and drawing, children explore graphic representation, which develops alongside writing and other fine motor skills. They have the opportunity to discover various works of art, learn to differentiate visual characteristics in objects, images, print, and letters, and develop an appreciation for the elements of art. Following the *Core Knowledge* sequence, ELC students engage in creating art inspired by famous artists, and they also analyze and discuss selected works of art, including their own creations.



ELC Art Exhibition

LED BY DEDICATED SPECIALISTS

Portuguese

To be a true global citizen means understanding cultures that are different from our own. At our school, we celebrate the culture and beauty of our home country by introducing the Portuguese language to all our students. Our Portuguese instruction encompasses not only language skills, but also Portuguese history, traditions, celebrations, and food.



Portuguese Class

Music and Movement

Our music curriculum revolves around listening to, performing, enjoying, and appreciating music in its diverse forms. Through music, children have the chance to practice oral language skills and expand their understanding of concepts like loud and soft, fast and slow, and more. By encouraging students to discern differences in environmental and musical sounds, we also enhance their phonemic awareness. Engaging in group musical experiences, performing, and singing together further fosters a sense of community.



Violin Class

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which students develop an understanding of their emotions, learn how to manage them effectively, set and work towards positive goals, demonstrate empathy towards others, establish and maintain healthy relationships, and make responsible decisions by actively solving problems.

ELLI Skills

The ELC utilizes the *Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory* (ELLI) program to impart essential learning skills and traits. ELLI introduces seven learning characteristics, each represented by an animal, through child-friendly stories that allow students to connect their learning skills with their emotions.

In the ELC, we also promote a growth mindset through *Glow and Grow* reflection time. Children evaluate themselves, engage in discussions with their peers and teachers about their strengths and goals, and express their reflections through drawings, writing, and conversations. "Glows" represent positive aspects, such as accomplishments or behaviors that we take pride in and want to continue. "Grows" refer to areas that have the potential to enhance our learning, perseverance, problem-solving, and adaptability.

Expected Behavior

When we comprehend a child's feelings, we become more adept at recognizing the areas in which they require support. Through a proactive approach that involves identifying appropriate choices in response to student actions, we foster the development of emotionally healthy behavior. *Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports* (PBIS) is a school-based framework that emphasizes acknowledging positive behaviors rather than solely focusing on a child's challenges. While PBIS and SEL are effective independently, together they contribute to a comprehensive pastoral program that prioritizes the well-being of each child.



The Chameleon:

Changing and Learning

The Owl:

Strategic Awareness

The Bee:

Learning Relationships

The Spider:

Making Connections

The Cat:

Curiosity

The Tortoise:

Resilience

The Unicorn:

Creativity



Play Spaces

Our play spaces are designed to provide opportunities for children to engage in physical activity and develop gross and fine motor skills. Children can run, climb, jump, and balance, and engage in activities which promote physical, social, and emotional development by fostering positive relationships with peers and teachers, teamwork, and cooperation. We are proud to offer this rich and diverse learning environment that can enhance children's cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development at our Early Learning Center.

Healthy Eaters

Parents visiting our Early Learning Center are often pleasantly surprised to witness the enthusiasm and healthy eating habits of our youngest students. We collaborate with an outstanding dining service partner that takes pride in crafting nutritious meals that children genuinely enjoy. In our dedicated ELC dining room, each child has the opportunity to develop manners, etiquette, and an appreciation for making wholesome choices during mealtime. Every day, children are provided with a fresh whole-food lunch and two snacks, and it is not uncommon for them to request second and third helpings.





Meet our teachers!



EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD

Our highly-trained teachers deliver personalized instruction that allows children to progress through the curriculum at their own pace. They carefully observe and assess the individual needs of each child, and based on that, plan the next steps in their learning journey.

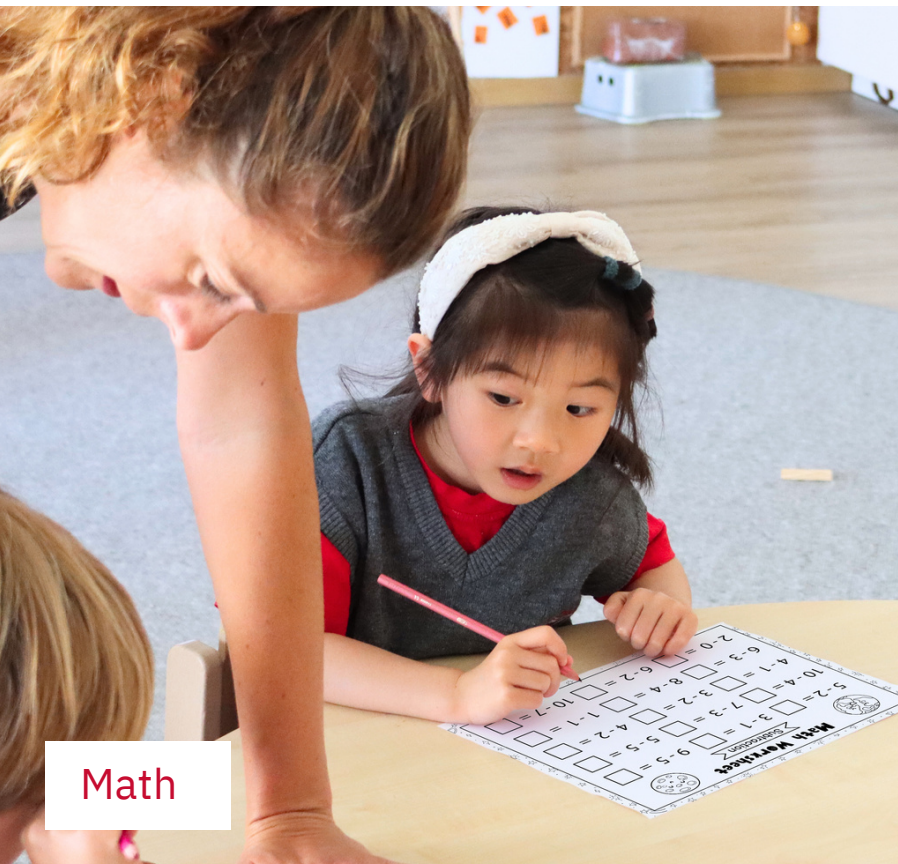
ELC teachers provide targeted, direct instruction to individuals and groups, as well as create opportunities for whole-class learning. Our goal from the start has been to hire teachers who will leave a lasting impact on students' lives, the ones who believe in them even on their most challenging days, and the ones who make learning easier and more enjoyable. We seek teachers who possess the necessary education and experience in the fundamental aspects of literacy, numeracy, growth mindset, and social-emotional well-being.

Moreover, we value teachers who continue to be lifelong learners themselves, and we incorporate ongoing professional development into our schedule.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ELC STUDENT



Library



Math



Language Arts



Recess



Visual Arts



Music & Movement

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

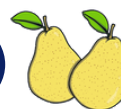
CIRCLE TIME



MATH



SNACK



SCIENCE



RECESS



PORTUGUESE



LUNCH



MUSIC & MOVEMENT



SEL LESSON



VISUAL ARTS



THE ELC PROMISE

The Early Learning Center is fortunate to have a team of capable and caring educators who foster a love of learning in each student and prioritize the overall well-being of the child. These dedicated professionals ensure that your young learner is taught with love and encouraged to take ownership of their learning, fostering greater independence in all areas. As a result, students are prepared to enter Elementary School academically, socially, and emotionally ready.



LEARN MORE



APPLY NOW



Our youngest Knights discover the magic of chivalry and embody the spirit of courage and curiosity.

Visit us online at **tasisportugal.org** | admissions@tasisportugal.org