

Mastery-Based Daily Schedule (K-1)

This is an example of a flexible daily schedule designed for K-1 students in a mastery-based learning program. Different iterations may be used at various school locations based on their specific needs.

The day is divided into two main parts: *Mastery Blocks* focused on individualized and self-paced instruction in literacy, math, and social-emotional learning, and *Exploration Blocks* where students engage in hands-on, creative activities and project-based learning. While not meant to be followed exactly every week, this schedule serves as a general guide to help structure learning. If you'd like to see how this could look over the course of a week, you can explore a sample weekly schedule [here](#).

8:30-8:45 AM: Morning Meeting & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- **Overview:** Welcome students, introduce the day's SEL theme, and set SEL goals related to each student's mastery path. The morning meeting builds community and reinforces SEL skills like cooperation and self-regulation.
- **Mastery Focus:** Students reflect on their personal SEL goals, using the daily theme to practice skills such as kindness or teamwork. Activities like group games or sharing circles provide opportunities to apply these skills in real-time.

8:45-9:30 AM: Literacy Block

- **Overview:** Whole-group instruction introduces or reviews reading strategies, followed by literacy centers where students work on individualized literacy goals.
 - **Guided Reading:** Teacher-led small group instruction, targeting mastery of specific reading strategies.
 - **Independent Reading:** Leveled books provide personalized practice for students to build fluency and comprehension.
 - **Phonics/Word Work:** Hands-on activities that reinforce letter recognition, phonics, and spelling.
 - **Mastery Path Tasks:** Students work independently on tasks that align with their current literacy mastery level, progressing through more challenging work as they demonstrate growth.

- **Mastery Focus:** Each student works toward individual literacy goals, advancing when they've mastered a particular reading or phonics skill.

9:30-10:15 AM: Math Block

- **Overview:** A mini-lesson introduces a new math concept, followed by centers where students practice individualized math skills based on their mastery levels.
 - **Manipulatives:** Hands-on materials (e.g., base-ten blocks, counters) to help students explore and understand key math concepts.
 - **Math Games:** Interactive games that reinforce counting, addition, or other math skills.
 - **Small Group Instruction:** Teacher-led, targeting specific skills for mastery, helping students move forward based on their current progress.
 - **Mastery Path Tasks:** Personalized tasks that align with each student's current math level, encouraging independent practice.
- **Mastery Focus:** Students focus on individualized math goals, practicing and mastering concepts before moving to more advanced tasks.

10:15-10:30 AM: Snack and Break

- **Overview:** A snack break and unstructured playtime to refresh and support social interaction.

10:30-11:15 AM: Afternoon Literacy/Math Rotations

- **Overview:** A choice-based learning block where students select activities aligned with their mastery goals in literacy and math.
 - **Adaptive Learning Tools:** Digital platforms adjust to each student's level, offering practice tasks that build on their current skills.
 - **Partner Reading or Math Challenges:** Students collaborate with peers to reinforce reading or math concepts through games and challenges.
 - **Small Group Check-ins:** The teacher monitors student progress, providing support and adjusting mastery goals as needed.
- **Mastery Focus:** Students practice literacy or math skills through choice-based activities, with each activity personalized to meet individual learning paths.

11:15-11:45 AM: Outdoor Play and Physical Education

- **Overview:** Structured physical activities and free play designed to promote physical development, coordination, and teamwork.

11:45-12:15 PM: Lunch

12:15-12:30 PM: Quiet Time

- **Overview:** A calming break for students to recharge. Students can read, listen to music, or rest.

12:30-1:15 PM: Exploration

- **Overview:** Students rotate through various exploration activities. Each day of the week features a different subject, such as:
 - **Music:** Rhythmic and movement-based learning, mastering coordination and listening skills through song or instrument practice.
 - **Science:** Hands-on experiments or nature observations, integrating literacy or math where possible (e.g., recording scientific observations).
 - **Art:** Creative projects that encourage self-expression and link to literacy or math concepts (e.g., illustrating a story, creating patterns in art).
 - **Makerspace/Library:** Time to engage in creative building or design challenges, or to explore literacy skills in the library.
- **Mastery Focus:** Exploration activities support fine motor skills, critical thinking, and creativity, while reinforcing literacy, math, and SEL skills through hands-on work.

1:15-1:45 PM: Project-Based Learning (PBL)

- **Overview:** Students work on collaborative and individualized projects that integrate multiple subjects (e.g., building a community model, creating a storybook, or researching a habitat).
- **Mastery Focus:** PBL provides opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery by applying literacy, math, and SEL skills in real-world contexts.

1:45-2:15 PM: Choice Time/Free Exploration

- **Overview:** Self-directed activities that allow students to explore personal interests like art, building, or sensory play. Optional stations provide reinforcement for literacy and math skills.

- **Mastery Focus:** Choice time encourages students to independently pursue tasks that interest them, while still focusing on mastery goals (e.g., building something related to an inquiry project or exploring a new book).

2:15-2:45 PM: Closing Circle and Dismissal

- **Overview:** Daily reflection, group sharing, and individual progress tracking.
 - **Reflect:** Students discuss what they learned during the day, how they applied mastery skills, and what they are proud of.
 - **Goal Setting:** Students reflect on individual progress and set personal mastery goals for the next day or week.
 - **Mastery Focus:** Reflection and goal-setting help students take ownership of their learning, assess their mastery in literacy, math, and SEL, and plan their next steps.
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Key Features of the Schedule:

- Throughout the day, students move at their own pace through personalized literacy and math tasks. Teachers provide targeted instruction based on each student's mastery path.
- Students experience a mix of structured learning, hands-on exploration, and creative expression, ensuring a holistic and engaging approach to education.
- Project-based learning and exploration blocks encourage cross-disciplinary connections, helping students apply skills from multiple subjects to real-world projects.
- Daily reflection times and goal-setting activities reinforce students' responsibility for their learning, helping them focus on mastery and personal growth.