



*where little wings take flight*



WHAT MAKES A LITTLE GRADUATE

# A parent's guide to our pedagogy.

01 · THE METHOD

**Montessori**

Child-led learning, Italy, 1907

02 · THE CURRICULUM

**Kreedo**

India's play-based partner

03 · THE STANDARD

**ECA-APER**

National early-years body

The first 1,825 days matter **more** than you think.

**85%** of your child's brain develops before age six.

ECA-APER · NEP & Brain Development in the Foundational Years

### Capacity

Not content.

These years shape how your child learns — vocabulary, focus, self-regulation, curiosity. Skills now compound for decades.

### ₹1 in

₹7–10 out.

Heckman's research: every rupee invested in quality early years returns 7–10x through better adult earnings, health, and citizenship.

### NEP 2020

It's national policy.

NEP 2020 and NCF-Foundational Stage 2023 both treat ages 3–8 as the most important phase of a child's schooling.



# Three things we believe.

## 01

### **Childhood isn't a race.**

We don't push 3-year-olds into 5-year-old work. We don't chase milestones for parental pride. We let curiosity lead — and academics still arrive, on time and intact.

## 02

### **Play is real work.**

When a child pours, sorts, builds, or argues with a friend about whose turn it is — they are doing the hardest, most important work of their life. Our job is to protect that work, not interrupt it.

## 03

### **Every child has their own pace.**

One child reads at 4. Another at 6. Both turn out brilliant. We observe each child, plan for each child, and report on each child individually — not against a class average.



# Three pillars hold up everything we do.

We aren't a private experiment. The Little Graduates stands on three established foundations — each independently respected, working together every day in our classrooms.

## 01 · THE METHOD

### Montessori

*Italy, 1907*

Child-led, self-paced learning with hands-on materials. Long uninterrupted work cycles. Independence and concentration are the goals — not compliance.

Used in 20,000+ schools worldwide.  
Endorsed by 100+ years of research.

## 02 · THE CURRICULUM

### Kreedo

*Bangalore, since 2013*

India's leading play-based curriculum partner. Provides the Lab, the Books, teacher training, and the 6T app — so every guide implements the same Concrete→Abstract sequence.

3,500+ partner schools · 700,000+ children · 350+ Indian cities.

## 03 · THE STANDARD

### ECA-APER

*Mumbai, 25+ years*

Early Childhood Association — India's national body for early-years education. Their S.A.F.E. Schools manual, POCSO guidance, NCF alignment, and value pedagogy is our reference frame.



TLG is a proud Institute Member of ECA-APER.

# Concrete → Abstract.

Practical → Theory.

Every concept enters the classroom in the child's hands **first**. Only later does the same idea appear in a book — which is why our children learn maths and reading without ever knowing they were being taught.

## STEP 01

### Do it.

Child uses physical materials in the Kreedo Lab — hands lead, mind follows.

#### IN PRACTICE

Pours quantities with number rods. Traces sandpaper letters with a fingertip.

## STEP 02

### See it.

Pattern emerges through repetition — the child notices order before anyone names it.

#### IN PRACTICE

"Each rod is one bigger than the one before." A child's quiet discovery.

## STEP 03

### Name it.

Only once it's understood, the teacher introduces the word — never before.

#### IN PRACTICE

"This is three." "This is the letter S." Language meets meaning that already exists.

## STEP 04

### Write it.

The Kreedo Book reinforces the same concept on paper — recognition, not introduction.

#### IN PRACTICE

The same activity, now on the page. The hand already knows what the pencil is for.



# The 6T framework.

Pedagogy is easy to write on a poster. The hard part is making it run reliably — every classroom, every day. That's what Kreedo's 6T framework does. Each T is something we operate every single day.

In partnership with Kreedo



## Toys & Games

The Kreedo Lab — 600+ purpose-built Montessori materials, manipulatives, child-sized furniture.



## Theory

Kreedo Books — workbooks mapped 1:1 to lab activities. Reinforcement, never first introduction.



## Timetable

A protected daily rhythm — long work cycle, daily outdoor time, circle, snack, enrichment.



## Training

Every guide is Kreedo-trained and Montessori-certified. In-service mentoring throughout the year.



## Technology

Kreedo 6T app for teacher planning, IEPs and assessment, plus Practico for gamified child practice.



## Teamwork

Peer learning — parallel play and small-group collaboration as a deliberate, planned pedagogy.



# What your child's morning looks like.

9:00 – 9:30	<b>Playtime / PE</b>	An active, joyful start. Outdoor or indoor movement to wake the body and settle the mind.
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Assembly</b>	Greeting, news of the day, song – a shared moment that anchors the morning.
9:45 – 10:15	<b>English</b>	Listening, speaking, phonics, sandpaper letters, story-based vocabulary – Concrete → Abstract.
10:15 – 10:30	<b>Math</b>	Quantity-first work with number rods and beads. Numerals introduced only after the hands understand.
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Hindi</b>	Spoken Hindi through songs, rhymes and conversation. Recognition before writing.
10:45 – 11:00	<b>Snack</b>	Children serve themselves, pour their own water, clear their plates. Conversation, gratitude, small-group bonding.
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Kreedo Lab</b>	The heart of the day – an hour in the Kreedo Lab. Each child chooses materials, sequence and pace. Guides observe.
12:00 – 12:45	<b>EVS</b>	The world enters the classroom – my body, festivals, plants, animals, weather, community.

*Indicative LKG schedule. Times adapt by section. The one-hour Kreedo Lab is non-negotiable – it's where the day's real work happens.*



# Six areas of growth, every week.

Kreedo's curriculum maps every activity to one or more of these areas. Your child's progress is tracked across all six, individually.

01

## Literacy

Listening, speaking, phonics through sandpaper letters, picture-to-word fluency, early reading and writing.

02

## Numeracy

Quantity-first with number rods and beads. Numerals introduced after. Operations only when the hands understand.

03

## Themes (EVS)

My body, festivals, plants & animals, transport, community — the world enters the classroom every week.

04

## Sensorial

Pink Tower, Brown Stair, sound boxes, smell jars, fabric matching — the young brain organises the world.

05

## Cognitive

Memory, problem-solving, classification, sequencing, pattern recognition — the engine of all later learning.

06

## Socio-emotional

Self-regulation, sharing, conflict resolution, empathy — built into daily routines, not a separate period.



# "Will my child actually learn to read?"

## THE WORRY



My neighbour's 4-year-old is already reading three-letter words. Will my child be behind?

It's a real concern — and it's also a trap. Indian preschools have drifted into early formal reading because parents demand visible **output**. ECA-APER and Dr. Swati Popat Vats are unambiguous: pushing reading too early damages comprehension, vocabulary, and the love of books that takes a lifetime to recover.

## HOW WE TEACH READING

### Reading begins with listening.

- 1 Songs, rhymes, conversation, story time
- 2 Picture recognition — naming, sequencing, predicting
- 3 Sound awareness through sandpaper letters (Kreedo Lab)
- 4 Word building with the moveable alphabet, in their own time
- 5 Reading for meaning — vocabulary and joy intact

By UKG, our children read short sentences — and they actually like books.



# "Will they cope with big school?"

Children from quality Montessori preschools are **measurably better-prepared** for primary – academically, socially, emotionally.

ECA-APER's ISBN-published booklet on the kindergarten-to-primary transition (2021), authored by Dr. Kamini Prakash Rege.

**ISBN 978-81-953511-6-9**



## Self-regulation, the hidden curriculum

Children leave us able to wait their turn, follow multi-step instructions, manage their belongings – primary's silent prerequisite.



## Foundational literacy & numeracy

Phonics, picture-to-word fluency, multi-digit maths through Kreedo materials. The base any board expects.



## Kreedo continues into Class 1 & 2

The same Concrete→Abstract pedagogy continues if you'd like – no jarring switch to rote learning.



## School-readiness routines

Independent toileting, lunchbox management, asking for help, sustained attention. Practised daily.



## Confidence to speak up

Children who are listened to grow into children who speak up. Our public-speaking circle starts at age three.



# How we know – and tell you – your child is growing.

No tests. No grades. Continuous observation, recorded in the Kreedo 6T app, reported using NCF 2023's Holistic Progress Card.

- 1 Observe.**  
Every guide records daily anecdotal observations in the Kreedo 6T app.
- 2 Plan.**  
Each child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) – goals, materials, next steps.
- 3 Map.**  
Every activity is mapped to the six skill areas and four mastery levels.
- 4 Share.**  
Termly progress report shared with you – strengths, growth areas, what's next at home.

## FOUR MASTERY LEVELS · NCF 2023

### A holistic progress card.

**E Emerging**  
Beginning to develop the skill

**P Progressing**  
Improving with some support

**I Independent**  
Performs with little or no help

**M Mastered**  
Confident, consistent, transfers



# Safety – every layer, on the record.

We follow ECA-APER's S.A.F.E. Schools ("Safety Always For Everyone") – the 88-page national safety manual edited by Dr. Swati Popat Vats. Here's how it shows up day to day.

● LAYER 01

## Physical safety

Child-sized furniture, no sharp edges, daily safety walk-through.

● LAYER 02

## Background checks

Every staff member police-verified and reference-checked, per ECA advisory.

● LAYER 03

## POCSO & GTBT

Good-Touch / Bad-Touch taught age-appropriately in English and Malayalam.

● LAYER 04

## Intimate care policy

Written policy on toileting, accidents, illness – shared with every parent on enrolment.

● LAYER 05

## Anti-bullying

Aligned with ECA-APER's Comprehensive Anti-Bullying Policy (2026). Kindness is taught, not assumed.

● LAYER 06

## Emotional safety

No shouting, no labelling, no public scolding. Conflicts handled with naming feelings – never shame.

● LAYER 07

## Health & hygiene

Sun-lit classrooms, kitchen hygiene checks, first-aid trained staff, illness-exclusion protocol.

● LAYER 08

## Emergency readiness

Fire drills, lockdown protocol, day-trip and excursion manuals – all from ECA-APER 2026 templates.



# Values aren't a poster on the wall.

Empathy, mindfulness, compassion and kindness aren't slogans here. They're a published curriculum — ECA-APER's four-part value pedagogy — woven into Kreedo's daily routines.

# E

## Empathy

We name feelings out loud. "He looks sad because..." Children learn that other minds exist.

# M

## Mindfulness

Three breaths before story time. Calm corners. Children learn to notice what they are feeling.

# C

## Compassion

Helping a friend tie a shoelace counts. Service to others is a daily practice — not a once-a-year charity day.

# K

## Kindness

Words and tone are part of the curriculum. Apology, repair, gratitude are practised, not preached.



# Why parents in Kochi choose The Little Graduates.

**1.5-6**

Ages we welcome — Playgroup to UKG

**600+**

Montessori materials in active rotation

**3,500+**

Schools trust Kreedo alongside us



Proud Institute Member of ECA-APER

## FIVE THINGS PARENTS TELL US WE GOT RIGHT

★ **A real outdoor space in central Kochi.**

Mud, grass, sky, room to roam — not a balcony. Daily outdoor time is non-negotiable.

★ **Aligned to NCF 2023 and NEP 2020.**

What we do daily matches the national framework — not a private experiment.

★ **Parent partnership, not parent reporting.**

Termly meetings, daily app updates, regular workshops, open conversations.

★ **Montessori-trained guides, not college freshers.**

Every guide is Montessori-certified AND Kreedo-trained. Continuous in-service mentoring.

★ **Tiny ratios. Genuine attention.**

Low guide-to-child ratios so every child is seen, every day. Daily anecdotal observations.

BECAUSE DECKS ONLY GO SO FAR

# See us live.

## WATCH & LEARN



**A glimpse of Little Graduates**

[youtube.com/watch?v=0H9wV-R7hls](https://youtube.com/watch?v=0H9wV-R7hls)



**Montessori materials in action**

[youtube.com/watch?v=RANE70UZtnc](https://youtube.com/watch?v=RANE70UZtnc)



**The Kreedo curriculum**

[youtube.com/watch?v=oXI737RCsal](https://youtube.com/watch?v=oXI737RCsal)

FOLLOW OUR DAY-TO-DAY

**@the\_little\_graduates.in**

[instagram.com/the\\_little\\_graduates.in](https://instagram.com/the_little_graduates.in)

Inside our classroom · Outdoor play · Little explorers at work · Robotix in action

**VISIT**

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READY TO MEET A LITTLE GRADUATE?

# Book a Discovery Session.

Walk the campus. Watch a Montessori work cycle. Meet a Kredo Lab. See where your child's mornings could happen.

CALL · WHATSAPP

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