

Welcome to Kindergarten

Starting Kindergarten is a very important and exciting time in your child's life. We welcome you and want you to know that we will do everything we can to make your child's experience the best possible! This letter includes ways to help prepare your child to get ready for Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten Teachers

Academic Skills to Practice:

- Recite/sing the alphabet.
- Identify upper and lower case letters.
- Write their first name starting with an uppercase letter and the rest lowercase.
- Recognize name in print.
- Count to 20.
- Identify numbers to 20.
- Use finger to touch and count objects.
- Know basic colors: red, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple, black, white, brown, pink).
- Sing or recite nursery rhymes.
- Rhyming skills: Have your child give rhyming words or identify if two words rhyme.
- Use scissors to cut on a line.
- Practice using a glue stick.
- Say phone number, birthday and address.
- Color a picture within the lines.
- Work on listening skills: read and retell stories and discuss story elements.
- Sit for a story 5–10 minutes.

Self Help Skills to Practice:

- Saying his or her first and last name.
- Tell an adult if something is wrong or ask an adult for help.
- Use restroom independently: wash hands and flush the toilet without reminders.
- Independently put on and take off his/her coat using zippers and buttons.
- Independently pack/unpack backpack: zippers, pockets, etc.
- Clean up after themselves.
- Take turns and share.
- Tie their shoes on their own.
- Attend kindergarten with a positive attitude.
- Be confident and ready to separate from parent.
- Be able to listen and follow 2 step directions.
- Be able to solve problems without aggression.

Ways to Help Prepare Your Child:

- Go interesting places such as the beach, park, zoo, airport, farm or lake. (Example: Use car rides to play I Spy. This encourages children to identify shapes, colors, and helps develop their vocabulary in fun ways.
- Encourage your child to observe and talk about their experiences. Conversations with adults who care enrich a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world.
- Make eye contact with your child while listening to them speak, showing them that you value what they say.
- Praise, correct and encourage your child's efforts and curiosity, knowing that from mistakes comes learning and confidence.

Reading at Home with Your Child:

Here are a few tips and ideas to help cultivate a love of reading at home!

- Let your child hold the book as you read.
- Allow them to turn the pages.
- Invite them to read with you.
- Point to the words with your finger as you read.
- Go to the library and pick out books.
- Encourage them to look at the pictures and talk about them.
- Read to your child daily.
- Designate a “reading time” where the whole family sits down to read.
- Allow your child to choose books.
- Ask your child questions about the book: characters, setting, sequence—beginning, middle and end.
- Stop and ask questions as you read. What is happening? What may happen next? What do you see in the pictures?
- Expose your child to many kinds of literature (poems, nursery rhymes, fiction, fairy tales, fables and nonfiction).
- Be excited about reading with your child. It’s contagious!

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”

—Emilie Buchwald