

Welcome to Kindergarten

Entering kindergarten is an exciting time for children and their parents. Moving from the home or from a childcare center to the school environment can be an uncomfortable experience. Parents, teachers and school administrators want this transition to be as smooth and pleasant as possible.

The teachers will welcome the children into their classrooms and gently introduce them to the kindergarten environment. Parent orientation will make the adults feel more at ease. Children will be given time to become familiar with the new materials, the new activities and to make friends. Gradually, the children will gain a sense of comfort and belonging because they know the routines, the school layout and the people they meet each day.



There are many new adult faces in kindergarten. Children will meet and talk with the principal, custodians, secretaries, the media specialist, teacher assistants, cafeteria personnel, teachers at other grade levels, community volunteers and the children's parents. This interaction with adults and children in the school promotes social development.

In all of our schools, the safety of every child is a top priority. Because kindergarten children are often new to the school environment, special care is taken to ensure their safety. Each school site principal informs parents about arrival and departure procedures. Parents should

inform the school if special circumstances arise that might endanger a child's well being such as illness, handicaps, or family problems. Research tells us that successful transitions from home to school or from a childcare center to kindergarten can contribute to long-term school success. A successful adjustment to kindergarten will often influence the child's perceptions, attitudes, and performance in subsequent school years. Children who enjoy their first school experiences are more likely to participate in classroom activities, to comply with school rules, and to accept school responsibilities and behaviors that contribute to achievement in later grades. Since children's feelings about school – whether they like school or not – are often developed early in their school experience and appear relatively stable over time, it is important that the transition to kindergarten is successful for children and for their parents.

Early childhood is a significant period in human development. It is a time when children begin to develop initiative, independence, decision-making ability, creativity, early literacy, numeration skills, the desire to learn, the ability to relate to others, verbal communication skills, and feelings of self-worth. What young children learn in their fifth year will have a major impact on successful learning experiences in school, on their personal development, and on future success and participation in life and society.



A Message to Kindergarten Parents

- K** Kindle excitement about kindergarten. Visit your school and meet your child's teacher.
- I** Invite new school friends home to play and help your child build strong friendships.
- N** Never forget safety. Teach your child safety rules.
- D** Discuss what your child will be learning in school.
- E** Explore your neighborhood together. Talk about the world you live in.
- R** Review the good behavior expected of your child, such as following rules and taking turns.
- G** Get involved at your child's school. Join the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). Become a volunteer.
- A** Answer your child's questions about school. Reassure your child that school is fun!
- R** Read to your child daily. Visit the library together.
- T** Turn every day into a learning experience. Let your child help with everyday chores.
- E** Encourage your child to eat well, get enough sleep, bathe daily, and brush his/her teeth twice a day.
- N** Notice new things your child is learning to do. Reinforce your child's progress with praise.