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A PARENT'S GUIDE TO **Kindergarten**



Sun Prairie Area
School District



Child Development

WE KNOW...

“Stages of growth and development follow a reasonably predictable pattern. Children and adolescents do not proceed through each stage at the same pace. Children and adolescents progress through the various aspects of development at their own rate. Growth is uneven.”

Source: *Yardsticks, Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4-14*, by Chip Wood



Physical Development

- Kindergarteners need a lot of physical activity. They enjoy both indoor and outdoor physical play and activities.
- They have control of running, jumping, and making other large movements.
- They struggle with tasks that require small movements.

Social and Emotional Development

- Kindergarteners are anxious and can be quite sensitive. Criticism can be traumatic.
- They need consistency with rules and consequences, and they respond well to clear and simple expectations.
- They look for verbal permission from adults.

Kindergarten Experience

Kindergarteners will ...

ARTS EDUCATION

- Build skills through experimentation with drawing, painting, collage and sculpture
- Create art that tells a story about a life event
- Explain their process for creating an artwork
- Describe what an image represents
- Present or display works of art and explain why they were chosen
- Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces
- Engage in The Studio Habits of Mind, a set of thinking dispositions utilized throughout the creative process
- Kindergarten media includes drawing, painting, collage, fiber, printmaking, ceramics, and 3D sculpture

HEALTH

- Describe ways to prevent common childhood accidents and injuries
- Describe healthy behaviors that impact personal health
- Use refusal skills, including firmly saying no and getting away from the situation
- Describe ways to respond when in unwanted, threatening, or dangerous situations
- Demonstrate behaviors that avoid or reduce health risk
- List ways to prevent communicable diseases

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Travel safely in pathways and personal space
- Participate cooperatively for the enjoyment of movement
- Perform fundamental motor skills while maintaining balance
- Perform the physical skills required for class activities
- Be responsible for personal and social behavior in physical activity settings
- Understand and respect differences among people in physical activity settings

MUSIC

- Identify and demonstrate four voices: Whisper, Talk, Shout, Sing
- Keep a steady beat with their body and on various instruments
- Describe music using appropriate vocabulary, *fast/slow, high/low, loud/soft*
- Move expressively in response to different styles of music

GUIDANCE

- Listen, focus, and pay attention (attention skills)
- Be a friend, cooperate, not bully others (social skills)
- Identify feelings and emotions
- Identify ways to express needs, wants, and feelings
- Identify ways to communicate
- Identify ways to prevent bullying
- Begin career exploration

End-of-Year Expectations

Kindergarteners will know how to ...

Family Learning Activities

Practice these strategies at home in your family's native language as well as in English.

LITERACY

- Identify and write letters and sounds
- Read and write at least 30 sight words
- Track, print, and decode simple words by looking at beginning, middle, and ending sounds
- Tell a story through pictures and words
- Read and understand grade-level text
- Participate in conversations around text and their own writing

- Read with and to your child every day.
- Play games involving rhyming and identifying letters and letter sounds.
- Encourage your child to retell stories.
- Ask questions when reading with your child to support their understanding.
- Ask your child to put letters and pictures together to create simple stories.
- Encourage you child to identify sight words in text and in isolation.
- Help your child be responsible for any homework, reading logs, or projects.

MATH

- Count to 100 by 10s and 1s
- Write, identify, and count objects for numbers 1-20
- Add and subtract fluently using numbers 1-5
- Sort and recognize 2- and 3-dimensional shapes by their attributes
- Understand vocabulary terms, such as *greater than*, *less than*, *longer*, *shorter*, *heavier*, *lighter*

- Ask questions that encourage your child to count up to 20. (How many beans are on the plate?)
- Ask your child to read and write numbers on a calendar.
- Encourage your child to sort common objects (coins, cereal, toys) by attributes such as size, color, and shape.
- Play games and create simple addition and subtraction problems for your child using life situations.
- Ask your child about the length of certain objects. How do you know? (Which is shorter? Which is longer?)

SCIENCE

- Use senses to make and describe observations
- Identify characteristics of living versus nonliving things (ability to grow; ability to reproduce; need for air, food, and water)
- Participate in lessons involving Earth, life, and physical science

- Observe changes in the seasons and discuss them with your child.
- Explore the world (visiting parks, zoos, ponds) and look for living and nonliving things.
- Have conversations. Take turns talking and listening.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Identify one or more causes of an event, issue, or problem (History)
- Describe groups they belong to in school and in the community, and the various roles of people (Civics)
- Differentiate between a want and a need (Economics)
- Interact with people who are like them and different from them, and be friendly to everyone (Culture)
- Understand the relationship between people, places and environment (Geography)
- Work with others to solve problems

- Look for opportunities to discuss, explore, and experience different cultures.
- Discuss your child's goals, and ways to reach them.
- Share stories about family history, places, and jobs.
- Have play dates, visit parks, and encourage your child to socialize with peers.



WE **welcome** OUR FAMILIES.

WE **honor** WHAT YOU BRING TO OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY.

WE WANT TO **partner** WITH YOU IN WAYS THAT HELP YOUR CHILD.

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