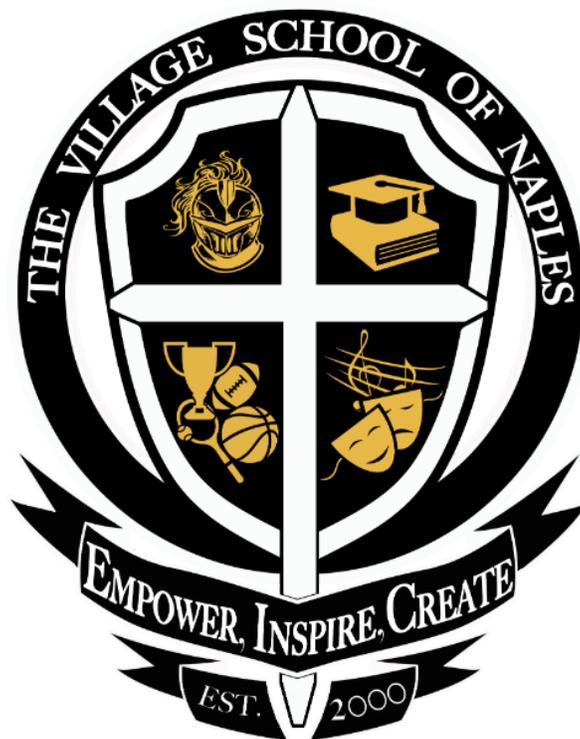


The Village School's Rising Kindergarten Informational Packet Summer 2021



THIS SUMMER PACKET IS OPTIONAL AND WILL NOT BE GRADED.

Dear Rising Kindergartners and Parents,

Congratulations on completing Junior Kindergarten! We are very excited that you are entrusting us with your child to start them on their academic journey. Your child will develop in many ways academically, emotionally, physically, and socially. Kindergarten is the first year where they will be fully immersed in learning and taught the foundation of their education. While having fun during the summer months, please remember to keep their brain active and engaged! We want them to have hands-on learning opportunities at home. Below, please see the skills and activities we suggest practicing over the summer. We want your child to be prepared for the coming year, but we also want them to enjoy the learning process. If you feel your child is eager to learn more, then we encourage you to extend the basic ideas listed in this packet. Academic success in early childhood is greatly dependent upon help from home and positive self-esteem. The more information your child knows, the more accomplished and confident they will feel coming to school. Any head start you give your child, is a boost to their confidence. Thank you for your dedication to your child's growth and development. The most important thing you could do to prepare your child for Kindergarten is to give them the gift of your time. Please note, this packet is **optional** and will not be graded. Have a great summer and happy learning!

Fondly,
The Kindergarten Team

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Kindergarten Readiness:

Self Help Skills

- ★ Can use the bathroom independently and complete accompanying hygiene tasks
- ★ Able to dress self (fastens, snaps, buttons and zips)
- ★ States full name and age

Social/Emotional Skills

- ★ Separates from caregivers without excessive upset
- ★ Plays/shares with other children
- ★ Waits his turn
- ★ Recognizes and responds to other people's feelings
- ★ Uses "please" and "thank you"

Language Skills (Expressive and Receptive)

- ★ Expresses needs and wants verbally
- ★ Attempts to speak in complete sentences
- ★ Is generally understood by adults
- ★ Uses words, not physical action, to express emotions such as anger or disappointment
- ★ Understands and follows two-step directions
- ★ Understands positional vocabulary (i.e. on top of, below, next to)

Fine Motor Skills

- ★ Holds pencil/crayon in a non-fisted grip
- ★ Able to control scissors to complete an intentional task
- ★ Traces lines and basic shapes
- ★ Copies basic figures such as a circle, square and a straight line

Gross Motor Skills

- ★ Runs and skips
- ★ Jumps with feet together and hops while balancing on one foot.
- ★ Climbs stairs with alternating feet
- ★ Walks backwards
- ★ Bounces a kickball
- ★ Attempts a two-handed catch of a kickball

Math Skills

- ★ Counts from 1 to 10
- ★ Recognizes/points to/identifies basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle)
- ★ Beginning to count with one-to-one correspondence
- ★ Can sort items by one or more attributes
- ★ Identifies, either verbally or by pointing to, the colors of crayons in the 8-count box (black, blue, brown, green, orange, red, purple, yellow)

Literacy/Phonemic Awareness Skills

- ★ Enjoys being read to/listening to stories
- ★ Recognizes environmental print (familiar logos, signs and words)
- ★ Knows how to handle a book (i.e. holds book right side up, knows where it starts and ends)
- ★ Recites the alphabet
- ★ Identifies some letters and some of the sounds they make, either by sound to letter or letter to sound
- ★ Recognizes first name in print
- ★ Able to discern whether or not two words rhyme
- ★ Tries to write own name or other ideas by using symbols or letters
- ★ Can draw a picture to express an idea

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Reading:

Students do not necessarily need to come into Kindergarten reading, but they do need to know the basics of a book. They should be able to identify the following;

- ★ Title
- ★ Author
- ★ Illustrator
- ★ Front
- ★ Cover
- ★ Back
- ★ Cover
- ★ Title Page

Students need to know how to handle a book. Students should be able to identify letters, words, spaces between words, and periods in a book. They should also be able to tell you where to go when you reach the end of a word, line, sentence, and page.

Students should be read aloud for 15-20 minutes each day. Choose stories or texts that respond to your child's interests and experiences. Ask the children questions such as: What do you think is happening here? (comprehension), What makes you think that? (inferring), What do you think will happen next? (predicting), Why? (vocabulary and oral language).

Summer Read Aloud Suggestions:

- ★ *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Julie Durrell
- ★ *Kindergarten Rocks!* by Katie Davis
- ★ *How Do Dinosaurs Go To School* by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
- ★ *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr.
- ★ *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- ★ *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- ★ *Dad's First Day* by Mike Wohnoutka
- ★ *The Pout Pout Fish Goes to School* by Deborah Diesen
- ★ *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon
- ★ *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- ★ *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Joffe Numeroff

For more titles, see Reading Rockets link

<http://www.readingrockets.org/booklists/great-read-alouds-preschoolers>

For a fun and interactive way to log your reading with your child, please download and print [this reading log](#) for the months of June, July, and August. Have your child color in a shape for each day you read!

Writing:

Students need to know how to identify, read, and write their own first name. They should know how to write letters, starting from the top instead of the bottom of the line.

Phonics:

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Students should be able to recite the ABC's. They should be able to identify all alphabet letters, and begin making letter sounds (the more letter sounds they know, the easier reading and writing will be for them).

Reading, Math, and basic Kindergarten skills could be practiced using basic index cards. You can use the cards to match uppercase and lowercase letters, identify letters, build simple words, etc. Be creative and develop games for your child to play. "Hold up the letter that makes ___ sound" or "Show me the letter that makes the first sound you hear in cat?" They can also be used for sight words, color identification, making words, number identification, ordering numbers, shape matching, memory games, etc.

Websites for Practice:

- ★ <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/> (Science, Math & Social Studies)
- ★ <https://pbskids.org/games/reading/> (Reading-record your own stories, letter sounds, rhyming words, etc. and Math)
- ★ <https://www.funbrain.com/> (Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies)
- ★ <https://www.starfall.com/> (Phonics, Math, Science and Social Studies)
- ★ <https://www.abcmouse.com> (Letter Sounds, Math, Reading)
- ★ <https://www.abcya.com> (games and apps for sorting, building words, hundreds charts, etc.)
- ★ <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments.html>

Creative and Cross-Curricular Activities:

Create sensory bins-A sensory bin is typically a plastic tub or a large container of some sort filled with materials and objects carefully selected to stimulate the senses. A sensory bin can be filled with a large variety of different materials such as shredded paper, water beads, water, sand, and more. Students sort, classify and categorize various objects. Please see links for detailed descriptions, importance, benefits and several ideas.

- ★ <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/all-about-sensory-bins-5-things-need-know/>
- ★ <https://www.pre-kpages.com/what-is-a-sensory-bin/>
- ★ <https://happyhooligans.ca/sensory-bins/>

Cook together-They can help prepare food and cook. Cooking with children provides practical experience with many essential skills such as reading, following directions, and measuring. Getting involved in cooking helps your child to develop fine motor skills, eye hand coordination, and even early concepts of math and science.

Go on nature walks-A nature walk is an excellent way to stimulate a child's appreciation for the natural world. Go for a nature walk with your children and ask them to tell you what they see, hear, smell or feel. Encourage them to feel the texture of rocks, barks of trees, and dried up leaves. These are science experiences for young inquisitive minds. Collect leaves and rocks to sort, classify and categorize.

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Make Slime-Playing with slime is a sensory play activity. Sensory play allows children to utilize and understand all five senses. When several senses are stimulated at once, children build their creativity and learning through exploration. Sensory play also encourages the development of fine motor skills and coordination.

Do Puzzles-Puzzles are also an important educational learning tool for toddlers and young children as they provide many skills and mental learning benefits and opportunities. They enhance cognitive skills, problem solving, fine motor development and hand and eye coordination.

Play Board Games-Simple games like Candy Land, Hi-Ho! Cherry-O and Chutes and Ladders, help young players identify colors, count spaces, and even develop hand-eye coordination and dexterity in moving cards and pieces around the board. Plus, learning to wait your turn and follow the rules are important lessons that serve kids far beyond the living room floor.

Construct/Build Towers with Household Items- Building and constructing help children develop their vocabularies, improve math skills, and even teaches them about gravity, balance, and geometry. They learn how to describe colors, shapes, sizes and positions as they build various structures.

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