



Parent Guide to the Curriculum

at the **BROADALBIN-PERTH** Central School District

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED?

You play a very important role in your child's academic performance. Here are some things you can do to support your child's learning:

- ▶ Let your child know that education is the foundation for success.
- ▶ Know what your child is expected to learn in kindergarten.
- ▶ Help your child set high short-term and long-term academic goals.
- ▶ Designate a time and location to complete homework.
- ▶ Talk to your child about what is happening in school and constantly monitor progress.
- ▶ Advocate for your child.
- ▶ Share your child's strengths with your child and your child's teacher.

RESOURCES

- ▶ 1,000 Book Club
- ▶ RazKids.com
- ▶ Scholastic.com (parent resources)
- ▶ PBSkids.org

Kindergarten

Broadalbin-Perth Elementary School is an important part of our school system and our community. At every grade level, students will receive the necessary preparation to be successful in school. Our goal is to instill in our students a strong sense of Patriot Pride at this young and impressionable age. This pride emerges from developing a positive work ethic, persevering in learning activities, and showing respect toward themselves and one another. As we "strive for excellence," these skills will help students become lifelong learners.

The purpose of this guide is to provide you an overview of what your child will learn by the end of kindergarten. This guide gives you the necessary tools and strategies to help your child meet his or her learning goals.

Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher

When speaking with your child's teacher about academic progress, here are a few questions you may want to consider asking:

- ▶ What are the learning goals? Can you show me examples of student work that meets the learning goals?
- ▶ May I see an example of my child's work? How does it or doesn't it meet these learning goals?
- ▶ Is my child at or above grade level? What extra support is available? What can I do at home?
- ▶ What classroom routines do you have that should also be used at home?
- ▶ What kinds of questions could I ask my child on a daily basis about your class?

Talking to Your Child

Good conversations help our children see that we are interested in their lives. Here are a few conversation starters you may want to consider using:

- ▶ Tell me about the best part of your day.
- ▶ What was the nicest thing you did for someone today?
- ▶ What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- ▶ Can you show me something you learned today?
- ▶ What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
- ▶ What rules are different at school than our rules at home? Do you think they're fair?



Language & Literacy

Highlights of what your child will learn in kindergarten include:

- ▶ Identifying and producing the sounds of the letters in the alphabet.
- ▶ Identifying and printing the upper and lower case letters in the alphabet.
- ▶ Matching long and short vowel sounds with the letters that go with them.
- ▶ Reading pre-primer and primer sight words.
- ▶ Spelling and writing an identified list of 20 frequently used words correctly.
- ▶ Recognizing and naming rhyming words.
- ▶ Producing the beginning, middle, and last sounds in simple words.
- ▶ Asking and answering questions about important details in stories.
- ▶ Reading and understanding books at grade level (expectation Level D).
- ▶ Comparing and contrasting characters and stories in familiar texts.
- ▶ Representing ideas through writing and illustrations.
- ▶ Writing sentences using proper mechanics.
- ▶ Using what they know about letters and sounds to spell easy words.
- ▶ Understanding and using question words (who, what, where, when, why, how).

Questions to ask your child's teacher:

- ▶ Can I see my child's writing? Is this piece on grade level, and if not can I see a sample of one on grade level?
- ▶ What resources can I use to help my child at home?
- ▶ How can I motivate my child to learn letters and sounds?
- ▶ How can I encourage my child to read?
- ▶ At the end of the year, how can I make sure my child does not regress during the summer before entering first grade?



CHARACTERISTICS OF BOOKS FOR PROFICIENT KINDERGARTEN READERS

- ▶ Simple factual texts, animal fantasy and realistic fiction
- ▶ Picture books
- ▶ Amusing one-dimensional characters
- ▶ Familiar, easy content, themes, and ideas
- ▶ Simple dialogue (some split dialogue)
- ▶ Many sentences with prepositional phrases and adjectives
- ▶ Some longer sentences (some with more than six words)
- ▶ Some simple contractions and possessives (words with apostrophes)
- ▶ Two to six lines of text on each page
- ▶ Some sentences turn over to the next line
- ▶ Some words with -s and -ing endings
- ▶ Fewer repetitive language patterns

CHARACTERISTICS OF PROFICIENT KINDERGARTEN READERS

- ▶ Eyes can track print over two to six lines per page
- ▶ Can process texts with fewer repeating language patterns
- ▶ Voice-print match is smooth and automatic; finger pointing is rarely needed, if ever
- ▶ Notices and uses a range of punctuation and read dialogue, reflecting the meaning through phrasing
- ▶ Can solve many regular two-syllable words, usually with inflectional endings (-ing)
- ▶ Consistently monitors reading and cross-checks one source of information against another; self-corrects



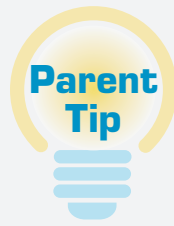
Mathematics

Highlights of what your child will learn in kindergarten include:

- ▶ Counting to 100 by ones and tens.
- ▶ Counting forward starting at any number they have learned.
- ▶ Writing numbers properly from 0 to 20.
- ▶ Adding and subtracting numbers within 5.
- ▶ Drawing a picture to represent a problem.
- ▶ Rapidly solving math facts.
- ▶ Naming 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes.
- ▶ Comparing numbers to tell which is number is greater.
- ▶ Putting objects into groups by looking at how they are the same.
- ▶ Comparing objects using tools to measure.

Questions to ask your child's teacher:

- ▶ How can I help my child to rapidly solve math facts?
- ▶ How can I help my child count to 100?



STEAM

In kindergarten, students are introduced to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics through the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Launch Program. PLTW taps into children's exploratory nature, engages them in learning that feels like play, and encourages them to keep discovering. Through PLTW, students become hands-on problem solvers and learn to collaborate with each other.

PLTW brings learning to life. Students learn to adopt a design-thinking mindset through activities, projects, and problems that relate to the world around them. As students engage in hands-on activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready to take on any challenge.

STEAM TOPICS

- ▶ Exploring design
- ▶ Pushes and pulls
- ▶ Human body
- ▶ Animals and algorithms

LIBRARY/MEDIA PROGRAM

The goal of the school library media program is to assist students and staff in becoming effective users of information and ideas. Children are growing up in a society that requires them to be efficient in information literacy. The media center supports classroom instruction and personal goals, encourages children to develop a lifelong love for reading, exposes children to various forms of material, and nurtures an environment for choosing and using books.

In kindergarten, children learn to:

- ▶ Appreciate literature.
- ▶ Understand the parts of a book (front cover, back cover, spine, title page).
- ▶ Identify the role of the author and the role of the illustrator.
- ▶ Demonstrate an understanding of story elements (characters, setting, problem, solution).
- ▶ Select books based on interests
- ▶ Identify the organization of easy picture books (alphabetical order based on author's last name).
- ▶ Understand that there are many places to get information online, but safety is key.
- ▶ Explore how email is used to communicate.



Social Studies

In kindergarten, students study "Self and Others." Students study themselves in the context of their immediate surroundings. Students learn about similarities and differences between children, families and communities and about holidays, symbols and traditions that unite us as Americans. Students learn about respect for others, as well as the rights and responsibilities of individuals.

Outside the Core

Physical Education

In kindergarten, students learn basic locomotor and non-locomotor skills and concepts. An emphasis is placed on safety as they learn about spatial awareness and body management. During this year, students begin to learn basic ball skills as well as object management. Students also begin to learn the basic benefits physical activity has for their bodies. In addition, students learn to follow directions and interact positively with classmates.

- ▶ Spatial Awareness – Introduction to personal and general space, identifying boundaries
- ▶ Locomotor Movement – Introduction to walking, galloping, skipping, running, jumping, hopping
- ▶ Physical Fitness – Introduction to endurance, strength, heart rate
- ▶ Body Management – Introduction to balance, dodging, chasing, fleeing, tumbling
- ▶ Object Management – Introduction to ball skills (rolling, tossing, throwing, dribbling with hands, dribbling with feet, kicking, catching), striking with different objects
- ▶ Rhythms and Dance – Introduction to simple movement patterns, simple narrative dances

Art

In kindergarten, your child will learn:

- ▶ Types of line and shape-line drawings, as well as creating and using shape.
- ▶ Cutting and gluing.
- ▶ Problem-solving skills.
- ▶ Primary, secondary, and neutral colors; utilizing the color wheel; and applying that knowledge in painting and drawing.
- ▶ Skills to understand and appreciate different types of art works.
- ▶ Basic watercolor skills.
- ▶ How to think, question, plan and create.
- ▶ How to use a variety of mediums, including oil, pastel, crayon, chalk and paint.

Music

Kindergarten students listen to music and picture books, dance, sing and play to experience steady beat and musical opposites: loud/soft, fast/slow, long/short and high/low. Students have opportunities for creating and composing while developing an understanding of and appreciation for many genres of music.

Citizenship

Citizenship is built and understood through school-wide presentations, modeling and curriculum study. Opportunities to discuss citizenship and positive character traits are embedded in the daily life of the elementary school. Through school and classroom expectations, as well as literacy study and discussion, students build an understanding of the value of citizenship. Service learning projects are hosted throughout the year to promote good citizenship. The district follows a 10-month character education calendar to ensure that students learn and understand the essential elements of good citizenship.

Health

In kindergarten, students are introduced to age-appropriate health topics so that they may start to develop and understand the importance of optimal wellness and self-worth. Learning focuses on developing healthy habits, such as making healthy food choices and practicing good hygiene. Students also begin to learn about their bodies and how they work as they explore all of the body's important systems. Each successive year builds on what children learn in previous years through hands-on experiments and projects.

- ▶ Healthy Habits – Personal hygiene, making healthy food choices, getting plenty of rest, moving every day
- ▶ Human Body – Skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, and digestive systems
- ▶ Nutrition – My Plate, obesity, gardening
- ▶ Personal Safety – Bike safety, stranger safety, substance abuse
- ▶ Emotional Health – Expressing emotions in healthy ways, importance of family and friends, anti-bullying