

Tips for Kindergarten Success

We welcome you and your child to kindergarten and look forward to beginning a partnership that will carry your child throughout his or her school journey. FSSD is committed to providing high-quality experiences that will build essential knowledge and skills that lead to success. The kindergarten curriculum is designed to engage children in the learning process and provide many interactive experiences that will lead to feelings of accomplishment and a love of learning.

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn and reinforce what is being taught in school:

- Help your child develop a positive attitude about school and his or her ability to learn. It is important that children come to school well-rested, fed, and ready to learn.
- Make every effort to bring your child to school regularly and on time. It begins the day on a positive note and sets a good work habit.
- Talk to your child about their school experiences. Ask them about the best thing that happened in school each day. Show interest in what they are learning and doing at school.
- Establish a routine for reviewing information that is sent home with your child. Be sure to return information as requested.
- Talk with your child's teacher regularly about your child's progress. Ask about what you can do to help them learn and grow.
- Volunteer to help in your child's classroom or school.
- Set high expectations for your child. Make it clear that school and learning are a priority. Encourage your child to work hard, even when presented with learning challenges.
- Dedicate at least 15 minutes a day to talking with your child and reading together. This will help develop literacy skills important for reading and writing.
- Limit the amount of time your child spends watching television and playing video games.
- Take opportunities to help your student learn as you go about your daily routine. Talk about how objects are alike and how they are different. Name letters and numbers on signs and in other printed materials.
- Ask the student to count objects and to put sets together and take them apart to build an understanding of addition and subtraction.
- Help your child practice writing his or her name. Also, encourage them as they work on self-help skills, such as zipping, buttoning, and mastering bathroom skills.
- Give your student jobs around the house and offer praise when those jobs are successfully completed. This can foster a sense of responsibility and a feeling of importance.
- Encourage your student to listen and follow directions.

WELCOME TO
kindergarten

2024-2025



FIRST FULL DAY OF KINDERGARTEN:
Thursday, August 15, 2024

Transition Period

The kindergarten transition period is a phase-in leading up to the first full day of kindergarten on Thursday, August 15th. Your campus will communicate the schedule.

During Kindergarten Kick-Off, your child will be signed up for a screening day and an orientation day:

- **Screening Day:** Your child will be scheduled to take a short basic skills assessment. This screening provides the teachers with the information necessary to plan instruction that will best meet the needs of your child. While you will not accompany your child to the screening room, please plan to remain in the building until this brief screening is completed.

- **Orientation/Small Group Day:** Students will be dismissed early on this day after having an opportunity to tour the building, meet school staff, and begin to understand school procedures in a small group setting. This day provides a gradual introduction to school and enables students to feel happy and confident as they start their year. You must provide transportation to and from school on this day.

Please record your child's assigned screening and orientation dates in the spaces provided so you may refer to it closer to the dates.

The Kindergarten Program

Tennessee's academic standards are used for English language arts, math, science, and social studies. Visit the Tennessee Department of Education website <https://www.tn.gov/education/instruction/academic-standards.html> to access them. Learning goals are based on these standards.

Some of the academic standards for reading/language arts include recognizing and writing alphabet letters, using letter sounds and other clues to read simple words, answering questions about details in stories, speaking clearly to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas, and using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to create a story. In math, children count, sort, and classify objects, compare quantities, identify and describe basic shapes, add and subtract small numbers, and use addition and subtraction to solve word problems. In science, children explore the world around them, including plants and animals. They build knowledge based on experiences with their families, schools, and communities in social studies.

In addition to these academic goals, kindergarteners continue to develop skills for collaboration and adjusting to a classroom environment. In FSSD, the focus is on the whole child, including their physical, social, emotional, and academic growth. Experiences in movement, art, and music are a vital part of the kindergarten curriculum.

Reporting Your Child's Progress

You will receive a report card four times during the year in addition to other teacher communication. This is a chance for us to share your child's academic achievement, challenges, work habits, and social development.

FSSD uses a standards-based report card that measures progress toward academic goals in reading/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Curriculum benchmarks are specifically identified on this report card. It is the progress toward these goals that we will monitor and report to you. This enables us to better recognize academic needs, to tailor teaching strategies to meet them, and to provide parents with the resources to help reinforce specific skills at home. Our teachers differentiate instruction so each child learns at a pace that is comfortable, yet challenging. The report card will also communicate your child's progress in developing responsible behavior that is essential to learning.

Thank you so much for your support and partnership as we begin an exciting journey with you and your child. Kindergarten is a special year full of wonderful experiences. We look forward to sharing them all with your child.

Screening Date: _____

Orientation Date: _____