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Parents often ask us how to prepare their child for kindergarten. Teachers look for strong social emotional skills which are the building blocks for a positive start. Children who can wait their turn, delay gratification, respond positively and interact appropriately with peers, display stamina with tasks, and have the ability to deal with set backs often have an advantage in school. This all takes TIME. Be intentional about slowing down and enjoying these most important moments with your young child.

Helpful Websites For Parents:

www.lovingguidance.com

www.allianceforchildhood

www.naturenetwork

BENEFITS OF JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN (JK)

- * Our JK program is linked directly to the BAS Kindergarten Curriculum.
- * JK is a full day experience, EVERYDAY.
- * New technology will be integrated into all of our early childhood classrooms.
- * Our JK teachers are experienced experts with Masters Degrees in Early Childhood Education.
- * JK students enjoy art, music, physical education, and library classes.
- * We design intentional social & emotional curriculum to build independence in all areas.
- * Our JK program provides a wonderful year of growth for future success!



Please contact us with any questions you may have.

Hawkins Elementary School

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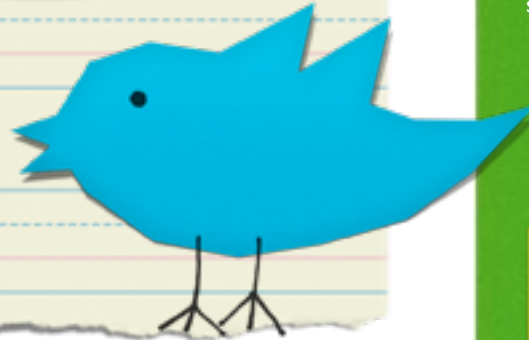
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HAWKINS

**KINDERGARTEN
& JUNIOR
KINDERGARTEN**





You are the most important teacher when you take time to talk and play with your child...building your child's brain and body while enriching your parent-child relationship.

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR YOUR CHILD

PLAY- Young children learn about the world through hands-on sensory experiences. Enjoy materials such as scissors, crayons, sand, dress-up, blocks, paint, clay, music, books, and games to strengthen your child's brain. Enjoy time in nature and use the environment as a teacher. Daily fresh air & exercise is essential for optimal child development. Take your child to various places. A simple trip to the post office can become an adventure!

ORAL LANGUAGE- Tell stories from your life to your child and encourage them to do the same. When you engage them with storytelling they learn the pattern of language and this lays the groundwork for writing. Be curious, listen and ask questions too. Young children often have lots to share. Take time to really listen to their ideas. Having a regular dinner time together as a family is a great time to share conversations about daily events.

INDEPENDENCE- Have your child do things without expecting continuous adult help. Putting away toys and materials at home, following simple directions, helping with household tasks daily to learn simple responsibilities, completing what he or she starts, helping them learn to dress themselves including zippers, buttons, jackets, & tying shoes when ready builds self-confidence.

JOY & CONFIDENCE- Experience great joy with your child. They are small only once. Take time to be silly and have fun together as a family. Develop family traditions together to bond. Young children gain great confidence from having a regular routine & knowing what is expected. When young children are allowed to experience small failures, it builds resilience. See mistakes as opportunities for learning.



SUMMER

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

THE SUMMER BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS:

- Show by your word and attitude that school is a happy and an important place full of wonderful adventures.
- Establish a routine at home for going to bed, getting up, rest, meals, and play which can be continued once school starts.
- One month before school begins, start backing up bedtime by 15 minutes each week. Young children need 10-12 hours of sleep nightly to be strong students.

-Read books that describe a typical kindergarten experience.

-Play outside.

-Visit school over the summer, enjoy the playground.



PLAY WITH ME

I tried to teach my child from books;

He gave me only puzzled looks.

I tried to reach my child with words;

They passed him by, oft unheard.

Despairingly I turned aside;

"How shall I teach this child? I cried.

Into my hand he put the key;

"Come" he said, "play with me."

Author Unknown