

Welcome to Kindergarten

Moore Public Schools

A Parent Guide

Welcome to kindergarten in Moore Public Schools. It may be your child's first experience with public schools. Going to school should be a joyful experience. This year may determine the direction of future learning for your child. As parents and educators, we need to keep in mind that a five-year-old has a lifetime of learning ahead. A good kindergarten program provides young children with the kind of foundation that will make all formal education more effective. Your involvement will help make this first step into public school a positive and rewarding experience for your child.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Please see the attached page for specific skills your child will need before starting kindergarten. Working with your child on these skills before school starts will help them have a much more successful year. Children are encouraged to be potty-trained before entering MPS Pre-K. Students should be able to clean themselves and change clothes, if necessary, after using the toilet.

Attendance

Regular attendance is of tremendous value to your child and the school. Please make sure that your child attends school every day and is on time each day.

*However, we do understand children will be absent from school. It is the responsibility of the parents to call the school when their child is not going to be at school and to be aware of the number of absences their child has accumulated. If your child has a fever, is throwing up, or has diarrhea, please call the school to let them know that your child will be absent.

Multiple absences and tardiness have a tremendous impact on your child's school success. Kindergarten children are under the same attendance guidelines as other elementary children. Please check the Elementary Student Handbook for complete details. Continued absences will fall under the district's discipline policy. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances may be requested through your building principal.

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Students enrolled in the kindergarten program in Moore Public Schools are getting ready to learn a lot more than their ABC's. The primary goal of the program is to teach students the Oklahoma State Standards which will provide instruction in language and literacy, math, science, social studies, as well as social/emotional skills needed to be a good citizen in the classroom and school. Students get hands-on instruction through activities in the classroom and beyond.

State Department of Education
Early Childhood and Family Education
Family Guide Kindergarten **Family Guide Kindergarten Spanish**

Your child will be off to a wonderful start in kindergarten if they can:

- *Recognize and name all capital letters.
- *Recognize and name all lowercase letters.
- *Recognize his/her own name in print.
- *Count a set of objects on their own.
- *Use scissors appropriately.
- *Hold and use pencils and crayons appropriately.
- *Fasten and remove and put on a jacket/coat independently.
- *Follow two and three step simple directions.
- *Sit quietly and listen for a 10-15-minute time span.
- *Discuss the picture story before reading the words in a book.
- *Match and create rhyming words and pictures.
- *Find pictures that start with a given sound.
- *Talk about what might happen next in the story.
- *Discuss words that are new to your child.
- *Open food containers at lunch independently.

Some things you can do to support your child's learning in Kindergarten include:

Write your child's name for them to copy, the first letter should be in the uppercase (capital) letter and the following letters are written in lowercase. Example: Pamela

Personal and Social Development:

Let your child do it for themselves. Allow time for them to dress independently in the morning and ask them to help pick out school clothes the night before.

Create rituals. Establish routines for going to bed, getting ready to ride in the car, going to school or daycare, saying goodbye, and so on.

Language and Literacy:

Let your child tell the story. Have them explain what they see in the illustrations (pictures) of a book you are reading together.

Create a reading and conversation routine. Set a special time to read to and to talk with your child every day, such as right after dinner, or when they are getting ready to go to sleep. When reading a story, talk about the characters, ideas, and events happening in the story. Read to your child every day!

Sign their name. To help your child recognize their name, write it on a sign that you attach to their mirror, or bedroom/ closet door. Then have them sign their name. Let your child sign their own name on letters or cards you send to friends or relatives.

Helpful Hints

Your Child's Clothing Should Be:

Simple Easy to manage (Zippers buttons, etc.)
Washable Labeled
Well-fitting Appropriate for the weather

You Should Establish:

A certain bedtime
A resting (quiet non-talking) time
Regular rising time

Encourage Your Child to:

Put away his/her own toys Follow directions
Do simple tasks when asked Assume responsibility
Listen when others are speaking

Make Sure Your Child:

Arrives to school promptly
Attends school regularly
Is picked up on time

Health: Please do not send your child to school if your child has:

A fever
Sore throat or tonsillitis with fever
Any eruption of the skin or rash with fever
Any nasal discharge accompanied by fever
Severe cough-producing phlegm
Any undiagnosed inflammation of the eyes or lids
Vomiting and/or diarrhea
Other conditions include head lice, impetigo, ring worm and scabies until adequately treated.

For your child's safety, their shoes should be appropriate for active movement.

Routines should be established in early August so your child is comfortable with them before school begins.