
WHY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION?

It is more important now than any previous time in history that our two-, three-, and four-year old children begin preparing for kindergarten. They cannot afford to enter kindergarten behind children prepared for kindergarten.

Why is education important?

Because it touches just about everything we value as individuals, citizens, and productive human beings; because it models virtue, encourages ideals, and guides the formation of character.

What is education?

Education is more than just a word; it's the access to all that a person has yet to learn. The future belongs to the educated Lebanon student.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert L. Taylor
Superintendent



ENCOURAGING FUTURE READERS + WRITERS

Parents of preschoolers can do so much to help their children become literate. Below is a list of some great ways parents can give their children a foundation for learning to read and write once they start school.

Talk with your preschooler.

By hearing language, children will absorb thousands of words and meanings. This vocabulary will enable them to understand what they read later on.

Encourage play.

Play is children's work! Through play activities, children are learning many skills related to reading. Given the time to play and a wide variety of materials or props to use, children will learn through experimentation and discovery.

Provide your child with new experiences.

These experiences help develop children's vocabulary, interests, and curiosity. With these experiences, children will bring richer knowledge and understanding to both their reading and writing in school.

Share writing opportunities.

By modeling the purpose and process of writing, children will make the connection between printed and spoken words. Given pencils, crayons, markers, and paper, children will experiment with writing on their own and begin the process of becoming a writer.

Read to your child.

Reading aloud to your child is the most important way to help your child become a successful reader. Children who are read to learn about eight words a day—the equivalent of 3,000 words per year—while children who are not read to learn two or fewer words per day. When they are read to, children learn how books work, the language and patterns of stories, and the joy of reading. What a beneficial experience!

STANDARDS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

PRESCHOOL + KINDERGARTEN + FIRST GRADE



SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

ENTERING PRESCHOOL:

3-5 YEARS OLD

- Self-help skills: assisted dressing, restroom use, eating
- Following simple directions
- Ability to sit and listen to a short story
- Recognize authority figures
- Communicate needs, wants, and feelings using words
- Knows and can state name
- Talk about experiences
- Speak in short sentences of at least 4-5 words
- Use positional words (over, under, next to, etc.)
- Engage in pretend play and role-playing
- Use toys appropriately
- Assumes some responsibility for clean-up
- Knows own gender (Boy/girl)
- Uses writing utensils (crayon, pencil, etc.)
- Can talk about a picture
- Match and sort items that are alike
- Ability to run and jump with two feet
- Recognize environmental print (fast food signs, cereal boxes, road signs)
- Beginning to count

ENTERING KINDERGARTEN:

- Begin to recognize and write first name
- Begin to count to ten
- Recognize some colors, letters, and shapes
- Be able to look through a book
- Have experience with glue, scissors, markers, paint, pencils, and crayons
- Draw a picture of him/herself
- Begin to recite parents' names
- Knows phone number and address and can verbalize
- Share and take turns, cooperate, show respect
- Dress him or herself and take care of personal needs (washing hands, blowing nose, zippers, snaps, buttons)
- Express ideas using words and sentences
- Respond to his/her own name
- Sit and listen to a short story
- Be responsible for household chores (feed dog, set table, pick up toys, etc.)
- Play with and interact with children his/her own age
- Follow one- or two-step directions
- Catch a ball, run, jump, hop on one foot
- Follow a daily routine

ENTERING FIRST GRADE:

- Recognize uppercase and lowercase letters and some words (e.g. own name, sight words such as the/on/it)
- Match letters to sounds and recognize sounds in words (beginning sounds and rhyming words)
- Understand writing concepts (e.g. writing goes from left to right and top to bottom, the difference between a letter and a word)
- Form letters following LCSC letter formation language (available from preschool and kindergarten teachers)
- Write a sample using invented spelling (e.g. *Mi dog iz bg.*)
- Begin to write on lines
- Listen attentively to stories, directions, and other children in classroom
- Follow multiple directions
- Recognize and write numbers to 20
- Begin to count to 100
- Match numbers to sets of objects
- Understand basic concepts about the calendar
- Create simple patterns
- Be responsible for personal belongings and perform self-help tasks (zipping, buttoning, tying)
- Tell birthday, address, and telephone number
- Sit quietly for 10-15 minutes
- Know and use school procedures (e.g. walking quietly in the hallway, putting coat and backpack in cubby)
- Use appropriate manners in all situations