

PLEASE NOTE: Children develop at different rates. Many skills will continue to develop during the kindergarten year. It is not expected that these skills are mastered upon entering kindergarten, but it is helpful if they have experiences in the areas listed below.

Help your child develop skills for kindergarten by providing experiences in the following areas:

Social/Emotional

Relational Skills

- Know first and last name (“Hi, I am John Anderson.”)
- Identify and expresses feelings (“I am mad.”)
- Initiate and join in with other children (asks to play with others on the playground)
- Share and take turns (cooperatively plays games with others)
- Listen to a speaker (eyes watching, ears listening, quiet voice, still body)

Self-help Skills

- Use the bathroom independently
- Practice good hygiene (blow nose, wash hands, etc.)
- Dress self (put on jacket, zip, etc.)
- Ask for help when needed
- Follow multiple step directions (ex: “First color, then cut. Next throw away scraps.”)
- Clean up when finished with a task
- Follow classroom rules, routines, and transitions (hands to self, use a quiet voice, sit during group times)

Physical

Motor Skills

- Write name
- Experience a variety of outdoor play activities (running, climbing, jumping, etc.)
- Use crayons, pencils, and scissors (cut, color, draw, write)
- Draw a self-portrait (uses shapes and lines to draw a person)
- Play with objects to develop fine motor skills (Legos, stringing beads, play dough, puzzles, etc.)

Cognitive

Literacy

- Listen to books read aloud daily
- Understand positional words and opposites (above, below, next to, top, bottom, etc.)
- Recognize if two words rhyme (bat/cat, dog/hog)
- Recognize environmental print (Target, McDonald’s, STOP, mom, dad)
- Identify most capital and lowercase letters (knows letters in random order and letters in their name)
- Identify features of a book (when asked, child can point to the title, front, back, etc.)
- Retell stories and events with details (ex: child can share story about their trip to the park or about a favorite story)

Math

- Count to 20 (child counts out loud from 1 to 20)
- Count at least 10 objects (given a group of objects, the child can touch and count how many)
- Identify more or less (child can tell which group of objects has more or less)
- Name and identify numerals 0-10 when out of order
- Name colors and shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)

Inquiry (Thinking and Learning)

- Use creativity and imagination (engages in imaginary play, draws, constructs, etc.)
- Ask questions about the world around them (shows eagerness and a sense of wonder as a learner)
- Construct and describe a variety of 3D structures (blocks, Legos, sand, rocks, play dough)
- Connect life experiences and school learning
- Explore a variety of interests
- Answer open-ended questions (“How do you think that could have happened?”, “How do you know?”, “What could you try differently?”, “Tell me about your...”)

List based on TS Gold assessments (used in our district Early Childhood programs).

TRANSLATIONS:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625
Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

On behalf of our school community, we are excited to welcome you and your incoming kindergarten student!

Enclosed you will find a 2026-27 Elementary Guide, filled with photos of our students doing what they do best - learning and making lasting friendships!

Online Enrollment

Enroll online at www.isd624.org/Kindergarten.

For additional information or to request printed enrollment materials, please call 651-407-7674.

When the enrollment process is complete, students will receive a Kindergarten Welcome Packet in the mail that will include a special "I'm a Bear" t-shirt.

Welcome to White Bear!

Mark your calendar for open house tours for incoming kindergarten families in January:

- Tuesday, Jan. 6 - 5:30-7 p.m. at Birch Lake Elementary, Oneka Elementary, Otter Lake Elementary and Willow Lane Elementary
- Wednesday, Jan. 7 - 4-6 p.m. at Matoska Int'l
- Thursday, Jan. 8 - 5:30-7 p.m. at Lakeaires Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, North Star Elementary and Vadnais Heights Elementary

Those families who have not already done so may register their child(ren) for kindergarten at the school tours.

Kindergarten Celebration

Students are invited to visit kindergarten classrooms, meet the teachers and enjoy building activities in April! Info will be sent by schools this spring.

We Look Forward to Seeing You Soon!

Elementary Principals & Staff Members



Check out a fun video welcome from our elementary principals!

Find helpful transitional info on reverse.