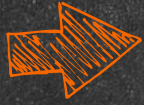


PORTRAIT OF A PANTHER:

Kindergarten



Typical kindergarten students are curious, enthusiastic learners who are developing foundational academic, social, and self-regulation skills. They thrive in nurturing environments with predictable routines and hands-on learning.



Academic Expectations

Core Literacy Skills: Kindergarten students build foundational literacy skills by recognizing letters and sounds, developing phonological awareness, begin to decode simple consonant-vowel-consonant words, and read high-frequency words with automaticity. They listen to and discuss read-alouds, retell familiar stories with support, and express ideas through drawings, labels, and emerging sentences.

Core Math Skills: Students count to 100, represent numbers up to 20, compare quantities, and begin simple addition and subtraction using concrete objects. They identify and describe shapes, explore patterns, sort objects, and compare measurements using everyday language.

Interdisciplinary Knowledge: In science, students observe weather, plant and animal needs, and basic forces such as pushes and pulls. In social studies, they learn about rules, routines, community helpers, and simple maps.

Learning Behaviors: Students are developing independence with classroom routines, learning to follow multi-step directions, and building stamina for short periods of focused work.



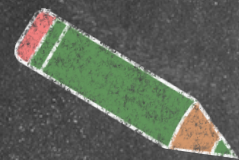
Social & Emotional Development

Self-Management: Kindergarteners are learning to identify and understand their own emotions, use basic calming strategies, and transition between activities with adult support.

Social Awareness: Students begin to recognize others' feelings and understand classroom expectations.

Relationship Skills: Children practice sharing, taking turns, and participating in cooperative play and learning.

Responsible Decision Making: Learners make simple choices, follow rules, and begin using problem-solving language with guidance.



Physical Traits & Development

Gross Motor Skills: Students develop balance, coordination, and control through running, jumping, hopping, and climbing.

Fine Motor Skills: Emerging pencil grip, cutting skills, writing letters and numbers, drawing shapes, and manipulating small objects.

Physical Growth Patterns: Rapid development with noticeable variation in coordination and strength.

Stamina & Activity Levels: High energy levels; frequent movement breaks support regulation and focus.



Cognitive Milestones

Attention & Focus: Can sustain attention for 5-10 minutes on structured tasks.

Memory Development: Recall classroom routines and simple sequences.

Reasoning & Problem Solving: Use concrete, hands-on strategies and trial-and-error approaches.

Perspective Taking: Emerging understanding that others may think or feel differently.



Implications for Instruction & Support

- Provide consistent routines and visual supports.
- Emphasize multisensory, play-based learning.
- Explicitly teach social-emotional skills.
- Incorporate frequent movement and brain breaks.



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