READY... SET...
Kindergarten



At Bismarck Public Schools, we are committed to making the kindergarten transition smooth. This newsletter offers helpful tips to prepare you and your child for the first day. Please use this as a reference guide and celebrate your child's unique talents and strengths.

Ready...

Research shows that **early speaking and listening skills are key to school success**. Children don't need to read before kindergarten, but practicing language skills helps them get ready. Repetition—hearing the same sounds and stories—builds strong brain connections for learning. Local libraries are great resources, offering free books, activities, and advice.

Set...

Children learn through play, gaining knowledge by exploring and experimenting. At the preschool age, they are curious about the world and enjoy asking questions and engaging in conversation. They begin to develop early literacy and math skills, such as recognizing letters, sounds, numbers and print concepts. **Reading with your child** supports their understanding of how books and language work.

Go!

Most children entering kindergarten can do many of the tasks listed in the following sections. **Every child develops at their own pace**—some faster, some slower. Be patient, trust your instincts, and avoid being too critical. **With time, attention, and a positive attitude, your child will thrive**.

Tips to Help Your Child get Ready

Language & Reading

- Recognize and say their full name.
- Play with rhymes and beginning sounds.
- Name some letters and sounds.
- Say two to four words together to make a sentence.
- Listen to and talk about stories.
- Touch, hold and turn pages of a book.

Social & Emotional Skills

- Follow 2-3 step directions.
- Play well with others.
- Verbally express feelings and emotions.
- Ask an adult for help.
- Take care of personal needs such as toilet, hand washing and clothing.

Tips, continued...

Motor Skills

- Identify body parts, such as head, toe, elbow, etc.
- Hold and use a pencil or crayon.
- Write their name.
- Copy letters and shapes.
- Follow basic safety rules such as looking both ways before crossing the street.

Math Skills

- Count to 10.
- Recognize and name numbers 1-10.
- Recognize basic shapes and colors.
- Sort things by shape and color, size.
- Show "how many" up to 5.
- Touch and count objects up to 5.

Additional Tips

- Speak clearly and use complete words. Model the speech you want your child to use.
- Visit the library and enjoy story time together.
- Play language games like rhyming or naming items that start with the same sound.
- Give your child simple responsibilities, such as setting the table or picking up toys.
- Look for letters and numbers in books, newspapers, signs, and billboards.
- Practice counting during everyday activities —blocks, cereal, game spaces, or utensils at mealtime.

***Be sure to complete the online registration process**
www.bismarckschools.org

BPS Registrar
Central Administration Building
128 Soo Line Drive, Bismarck, ND
registrar@bismarckschools.org
(701) 323-4110

gearing up for Kindergarten

Start your child's kindergarten journey with confidence!
The Gearing Up for Kindergarten program is designed for parents and their soon-to-be kindergartner to learn and grow together.
Parents will gain strategies to support language, social, emotional, and motor development, while children enjoy activities that build skills for a smooth transition to school.

Families can attend any of the three sessions offered at local schools.
Please **RSVP a week before** with the link or QR code.
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. each night + space is limited

Session 1 - Play, Talk, Learn
Sunrise - October 29 - 45 spots
Solheim - November 5 - 75 spots
Grimsrud - November 16 - 30 spots
Miller - March 11 - 45 spots
Liberty - March 18 - 60 spots
Myhre - March 22 - 45 spots

Session 2 - Explore & Empower
Silver Ranch - January 14 - 45 spots
Lincoln - January 19 - 75 spots
Elk Ridge - March 9 - 45 spots
Northridge - April 1 - 60 spots
Highland Acres - April 5 - 30 spots
Pioneer - April 19 - 40 spots

Session 3 - Friendships & Feelings
Grimsrud - January 21 - 30 spots
Sunrise - February 11 - 45 spots
Moses - February 18 - 45 spots
Elk Ridge - April 8 - 45 spots
Murphy - April 15 - 45 spots
Lincoln - April 20 - 75 spots

Registration Link