

Pre-Kindergarten Readiness Continued

SOCIAL SKILLS

While 3-5 year-olds have varying levels of social skills, the following will give you an idea of the things most pre-k students will be able to do.

- Listen when others talk
- Be interested in what others are doing
- Begin to take turns with peers
- Initiate interactions with others
- Begin to share toys with others
- Remember friends' names
- Greet others
- Use good manners—say, “please” and “thank you”
- Begin to understand that no one always gets to do what they want to do

Look for Social Opportunities

The best way for your child to develop good social skills is to have your little one spend time with other children close in age. Time spent with peers teaches children how to solve problems, share ideas, cooperate with others, and develop conversational skills.

MOTOR SKILLS

Developing Large Motor Skills

Children need large motor skills for playing games, sports, and other physical activities.

- Throw or kick a large ball back and forth.
- Take your child to the park to run, swing, and climb on the playground equipment.
- Practice hopping, jumping, and standing on one foot.

Developing Fine Motor Skills

Children need fine motor skills to color, paint, cut, and draw—and to learn how to write their letters.

- Always have crayons, pencils, markers, and different types of paper available for scribbling and drawing.
- Provide playdough or clay to help develop hand muscles.
- Help string cereal on pipe cleaners, build towers with blocks, and put simple puzzles together.
- Provide safety scissors and old magazines to cut up.
- Draw simple shapes and have your child trace over them.
- When ready, teach your child how to write his/her name. Have your child then “sign” all drawings and artwork.

This is a time of tremendous growth for your child, and Edmond Public Schools thanks you for allowing us to be a part of it. We look forward to a great year in pre-k!

GENERAL INFORMATION

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT

Immunization records must clearly indicate which immunizations the child has received, dates administered, and signatures or stamp of physician or immunization agency.

Pre-Kindergarten immunizations must include the following:

four(4) DPT/DTaP; three (3) Polio; one (1) MMR; three (3) HEP B; two (2) HEP A; one (1) Varicella (Chickenpox).

ILLNESS

If a child becomes ill or runs a temperature at school, the parents will be contacted immediately so that the child can be picked up and his/her health needs can be met properly. A child must be free of temperature without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

ATTENDANCE

One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: going to school every day. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing academic success.

TOYS

Children are not allowed to bring toys to school except for special events. The school will not be responsible for lost or broken toys. Toy guns, knives or other items which could be considered disruptive and/or dangerous are not allowed at school.

CLOTHING

Children should dress appropriately for school activities and weather. Clothing should be comfortable and allow children to use the restroom independently. Children's outer garments should be labeled.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parents are a vital part of a child's education. Edmond Public Schools has parent volunteers at each school site. Check your school site for ways to become involved.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Conferences with parents about their child's educational growth and social development will be held during the fall. Parents desiring additional conference time should contact the teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

A comprehensive list of the Oklahoma State Department of Education's new Oklahoma Academic Standards can be found at:

<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/newstandards>

Edmond Public Schools

Getting Ready for Pre-Kindergarten!



A Guide for Parents of
Incoming Pre-K Students

www.edmondschools.net

Getting Ready for Pre-Kindergarten!

At Edmond Public Schools, we pride ourselves on a child-centered program that meets the needs of the whole child. Students participate in a balanced program that supports individual growth in cognitive, social, emotional, and physical domains. Our goal is to start young learners on the road to a lifetime of success through a love of learning.

Pre-K class size is limited to 22 students. Classes are taught by Early Childhood Certified teachers. Each class also has a teacher assistant. The pre-kindergarten program is open Monday through Friday each week during the normal hours of school operations and follows the Edmond Public Schools calendar regarding holidays and professional days.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Children must be at least four years of age, but not older than 5 years of age, on or before September 1 of the enrollment year.
- Parents or legal guardians of students must be residents of Edmond Public School District..

Pre-Kindergarten Readiness

The following are things you can do to help your child get ready for this exciting year. As you help your child get ready for pre-k, make learning fun. Encourage curiosity and imagination—and answer those endless questions!

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

There is a wide range on what's considered an appropriate level of communication for 3-5 year-olds. The following is an idea of what most pre-k students will be able to do.

- Answer “yes/no” questions
- Respond when their name is called
- Verbalize basic wants and needs
- Name common objects
- Use action words to talk about what's going on
- Listen and respond when someone talks to them
- Follow simple directions
- Speak in short three-to-four word sentences
- Speak clearly enough that familiar adults can usually understand

READING READINESS

Reading to your child expands vocabulary, stimulates the imagination, and teaches your child to listen. It also nurtures a special bond between you and your child.

Learning about Books

Reading to your child can help him/her understand the following key concepts about printed material.

- We read from left to right and top to bottom. Running your finger under the words as you read will help demonstrate this.
- We create words by putting letters together in a specific order—and sentences are created by putting words together.

When reading to your child, talk about the picture and the story. Ask questions such as:

- “*What do you think will happen next?*”
- “*What was your favorite part?*”
- “*How do you think that character felt?*”
- “*What would you have done?*”

Learning about letters sounds, and words will give your child the foundation needed for reading. As you read together, point out the following:

- Upper case (capital) letters are different than lower case letters.
- Some words start with the same letter. “*Look—both bat and ball start with the letter b.*”
- Some words rhyme. “*Cat and hat rhyme. Can you think of another word that rhymes with cat and hat?*”
- Allow your child to dictate stories and letters or notes while you write them down.
- Help your child recognize the many ways writing is used (signs, menus, lists, books, package directions, etc.).

Fun ways to practice letters and sounds:

- Read an alphabet book. Talk about each letter and the sound that letter makes.
- Have magnetic letters on your refrigerator and ask your child to find specific letters.
- Form letters with playdough, in shaving cream, or by putting salt on a cookie sheet. You can also write letters with sidewalk chalk.
- Sing the alphabet song.
- Go on a letter hunt using old magazines. Cut out pictures and words that start with a specific letter, and make a collage.

- While driving in the car, think of words that rhyme with objects you see (car-star, tree-bee, man-pan).

MATH READINESS

To develop a good foundation for math, look for opportunities to have your child count items and compare and sort objects.

Counting and Numbers

Knowing numbers and learning how to count are important early math skills.

- When reading a picture book, count the number of objects on a page.
- As you drive around town, point out the numbers you see on buildings, billboards, and street signs.
- Ask your child to bring you a specific number of objects, such as two books or four crayons.
- While traveling, count the number of red (or blue, etc.) cars you see.

Comparing and Sorting

Comparing and sorting items helps children identify and describe relationships—a skill that's necessary for more complex math learning.

- Sort items such as socks by size and/or color.
- Take loose change and sort the coins into groups (pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters).
- To help your child understand descriptive terms such as more, less, bigger, smaller, taller, shorter, same, and different, look for opportunities to compare objects by size, shape, and weight. “*Which tree is taller?*” “*Which rock is heavier?*” “*Which glass has more juice?*” “*Are there more blue Legos or more yellow Legos?*”

“How Many”

Sometimes children have difficulty understanding the question “how many?” If you show children three items and ask how many, they will often count the items. Help your child understand that when answering the question, “how many?” it is the last number that's counted.

Above, Below, Over, and Under

To help your child learn positions such as over, under, above, below, in front, behind, etc., sit on the floor together, each of you holding an item. Take turns giving directions such as, “put the ball behind your back,” or “put the ball under your chin.” At first you may need to model these concepts and have your little one copy your movements.