

Parental involvement plays a critical role in a child's success in school.

Kindergarten Success

Work With Your School

- Get to know your child's teacher. Don't hesitate to ask questions or share your concerns.
- Attend all parent programs and conferences.

Promote Active Learning

- Make reading a daily family activity.
- Look for ways to broaden your child's experiences.
- Continue to help your child learn letters, numbers, colors, and shapes.

Build Healthy Habits

- Have healthy foods at home, and make sure that your child gets plenty of sleep. Kindergartners need 10-12 hours of sleep each night!

Develop Routines

- Stick to a schedule at home as the school day is full of routines.
- Try to keep after-school hours simple. Don't overschedule sports, lessons, or other activities.

Encourage Socialization

- Get to know the other kindergarten parents, and set up play dates with your child's classmates.
- Expose your child to different people and places to help him/her feel at ease in new situations.

Be Interested and Enthusiastic

- Talk to your child about what happened at school each day, and be interested in what he/she is learning.
- Ask specific questions, such as, "Who did you play with today?" "What did you have for snack?"
- Show pride in your kindergartener's accomplishments and display samples of his/her artwork and writing.

This will be a year of big changes. Your kindergartner will learn some of the basic skills needed to read, write, and do math. He/she will also learn how to follow classroom rules, and how to get along with others. As your child grows and develops new skills, he/she will become more independent and self-confident. It will be a year of tremendous growth!

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.

Kindergarten immunizations must include the following:

five (5) DPT/DTaP; four (4) Polio; two (2) 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 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 Kindergarten!



A Guide for Parents of Incoming Kindergartners

www.edmondschools.net

Getting Ready for 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.

Today's kindergarten is more academic and challenging than yesterday's counterpart. Edmond's kindergarten curriculum helps children learn to think, solve problems, share ideas, and develop language skills.

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 kindergarten, make learning fun. Encourage curiosity and imagination—and answer those endless questions!

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

Speaking and Listening Skills

Good communication skills will help lead to success in kindergarten and beyond.

- Encourage your child to share his/her thoughts and ideas with you. Ask questions that require more than a yes or no answer.
- Visit new places and talk about what you are seeing and doing. Make every outing an opportunity for learning new language.
- Give your child two or three step directions to follow, and ask him/her to repeat them back to you. For example, *“Wash your face, brush your teeth, and choose a book for us to read.”*

Social Skills

Kindergarten opens up a whole new world of social interactions.

- Arrange play time with other young children to foster social skills. Encourage problem solving, compromising, and sharing.
- Encourage your child to use words to let others know what he/she wants.
- Play games. Games help children learn how to take turns and how to win and lose.

READING & WRITING

Letters and Beginning Sounds

Look for opportunities to show your child that letters and words are all around us.

- During meal preparation, have your child point to letters on the food packaging (cereal box, juice container, etc.).
- Spell simple words using letter magnets.
- Pick a letter and talk about the sound that letter makes, see how many things you can find around the house that begin with that letter's sound.
- Play rhyming word games: *“I see a cup. Can you think of a word that rhymes with cup?”*
- Sing the alphabet song.
- Read ABC picture books and practice the sound each letter makes.

Reading

Read to and with your child every day.

- As you read, move your fingers under the words to help your child learn that words go from left to right.
- While reading a story, encourage your child to predict what will happen next. Also encourage your child to retell the story.
- Everyday conversation builds language skills; talk with your child about anything and everything.
- Point out words in your child's environment such as *Stop, Go, Boys, Girls, Cafe, School, Open, Milk*, etc.

Writing

Kindergartners spend a good amount of time in school learning how to write.

- Have paper, pencils, and crayons readily available for writing and drawing.
- Help your child practice writing their name, letters, and numbers.
- Practice writing notes, letters, and stories even if your child uses pretend writing or scribble writing.
- 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.).

MATH: NUMBERS, SHAPES AND COLORS

Numbers

Help develop your child's math skills by looking for opportunities to count and talk about numbers.

- Play counting games with objects (count the toys as you pick them up and put them away, count kinds of cards, or count paper and coin play or real money).
- Point out numbers as you are out and about (street signs, billboards, addresses, etc.).
- Ask your child to bring you a specific number of objects, such as two books, four spoons, etc.
- Introduce the concept of time. *“We are going to start making dinner at 5:00, and then we will eat at 6:00.”*

Shapes and Colors

Knowing shapes and colors will help your child understand that objects can be placed into categories.

- Play a game in which your child tries to find objects of a certain color or shape around the house.
- Ask your child to point out similarities and differences in objects.
- Sort and group items such as laundry pieces, silverware, cereal pieces, socks, candy, and rocks.
- Create patterns with simple objects.

MOTOR SKILLS

Fine Motor Skills

Children need fine motor skills to color, paint, write, cut, paste, and draw—activities that kindergartners do every day.

- Provide playdough or clay to develop hand muscles.
- Get a pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice cutting up newspapers and magazines.
- Put a puzzle together, string beads, and build with blocks.
- Practice zipping and unzipping, buttoning and unbuttoning, and fastening snaps.

Large Motor Skills

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

- Play catch with a large ball.
- Practice running, skipping, hopping, and jumping rope.
- Kick a ball back and forth and practice bouncing a basketball.