

# HOW TO GET YOUR CHILD OFF TO A GOOD START IN KINDERGARTEN

*A note from your child's teacher...*

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The following list is included to help you give your child a good start before Kindergarten begins in the fall. If your child can accomplish the tasks on this list before Kindergarten, we will be on the right track!

*Kindergartners should come to school able to:*

1. **NAME:** Your child needs to know how to *write* their first name properly before school begins. (Please consult the attached sheet which will show you how to correctly teach this. Note that your child should not write with all capitals, but rather make the first letter a capital followed by lower case letters.) Your child should also *know* their first and last name.
2. **COUNTING:** Your child should practice counting by rote as high as he or she can. The children should at the very least be able to count to 10 before Kindergarten, but preferably up to 30.
3. **NUMBERS:** Be able to identify at least the numbers 1-10.
4. **COLORS:** Your child needs to know the 8 basic colors.
5. **SHAPES:** A student entering Kindergarten should know the basic shapes: circle, square, triangle, heart, oval, and rectangle.
6. **RHYMING:** Research tells us that children who have mastered the ability to rhyme will have greater success with reading. Please, parents, practice rhyming with your child. Even making up nonsense words is fine. Use the old Nursery Rhymes that you grew up with. It's fun!

7. ALPHABET: Be able to say the alphabet letter names in proper sequence. Be able to sing the alphabet song. Your child will also have an advantage if they are able to visually identify the letters of the alphabet, *upper and lower* (not the sounds).
8. CUTTING: Your child should know how to use a scissors. Show him / her the proper way to hold and use the scissors. Then let your child cut. It will eliminate much frustration at school.
9. GET ACTIVE: Encourage your child to be physically active. This means running, jumping, hopping, skipping, catching, and throwing. Their large motor skills continue to be developed. Don't let them spend too much time in front of screens! Get active.
10. BATHROOM: Your child needs to be able to use the bathroom independently before Kindergarten. This means being capable of handling buttons, belts, etc... and good hand-washing.
11. SPEAKING: Encourage your child to speak clearly and in complete sentences. Correct mispronunciations and don't allow *baby talk*.
12. WRITING: Give your child ample opportunity to use a pencil and crayons! It's important for developing and strengthening small muscle coordination, which will make your child's work at school less tedious.
13. READ: Please read to your child everyday! Reading books with your child is valuable to them in a multitude of ways.

I greatly look forward to working with you and your child next year! Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best Regards,

Kindergarten Teachers