

WHY KINDERGARTEN?

The kindergarten year is an important one. It's a time when a child's experiences may well determine feelings about all future education. It's a time when what happens can stimulate or stifle the eagerness for learning.

We know that parents will have questions and feelings of uncertainty while preparing their children for the transition from home to school. We hope this preview of kindergarten will answer many of those questions and allay those concerns.

REQUIREMENTS

Age—children who reach the age of 5 on or before August 31 may be admitted to school in the fall. Parents should attend registration sessions in the spring and not delay registration until the opening of school.

Birth certificate or other legal proof of age must be presented at registration.

Residency—Also required of parents are two proofs of residency. Acceptable are driver's license, auto registration, utility bills bearing name and address, tax statements, and check stubs from wages, public assistance, or social security.

Immunization—Proof of immunization is required for entrance into school. Mandatory immunizations include:

- ◆ 4 DPT shots – the fourth shot given on or after the fourth birthday
- ◆ 3 polio
- ◆ 2 MMR – measles, mumps, and rubella (1st shot on or after 1st birthday)
- ◆ 3 Hepatitis B vaccines
- ◆ 1 Varicella (Chicken Pox) or history of chicken pox disease.

ATTENDANCE

Children should attend regularly in order to get the most from the program and acquire a proper attitude toward school.

Time—Kindergarten children attend school only for half a day. Those assigned to the morning session will attend from 9 to 11:35. Those assigned to the afternoon session will attend from 12:45 to 3:15. Assignments are based on the district's busing configurations.

GOALS

Social living—to develop desirable habits such as courtesy, cooperation, sharing, respect for the property and rights of others, and self-control.

Language arts—to provide experiences for children to improve in speaking, listening, and decision making. The curriculum includes:

Reading readiness—appreciation of literature, awareness of symbols, left-to-right eye movement, and awareness of likeness and difference in size, shape, color, sequence, and order, and recognition of sight words.

Listening—listening courteously to others, listening for and responding to directions, enjoying rhymes through poems and nursery rhymes, developing an awareness of individual sounds in words.

Speaking—speaking clearly and distinctly in complete sentences, increasing vocabulary, developing ability to retell a story, relating facts in sequence, and interpreting pictures.

Writing—developing correct position of pencil in hand, ability to copy symbols (letters and numbers), appropriate use of lines and spaces, and composition of own stories through process writing with use of inventive spelling and illustrations.

Social studies—units are All About Me, Holidays/Calendar, The School Environment, School Helpers, and Transportation.

Science—to discover new facts about seasons/weather, animals, plants, and day and night

Physical education—to improve motor coordination and development, and to show children the relationship between themselves and space.

Music—to emphasize the joy of music by learning to sing songs and make use of rhythmic activities.

Art—to foster creative ability through proper use of art materials and exposure to a variety of mediums.

Mathematics—to provide activities for the development of the concepts of shapes, sets, number values, numerals, measurement, patterning, money and time.

GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Teach child to communicate name, parent's name, address, and phone number.
2. Teach child to put on/remove coat, shoes, and boots (fasten and unfasten clothing).
3. Teach child to care for self at the toilet.
4. Teach child to cover mouth when sneezing or coughing, and to wash hands after using the toilet and before eating.
5. Avoid and discourage "baby" talk. Encourage child to speak in sentences rather than giving one- and two-word answers.
6. Read to your child, making it a pleasant experience, never forced.
7. Encourage child to express wants and feelings in words. Anticipation of your child's needs without allowing him/her to make requests may prevent speech growth.
8. Encourage child to do things for self even though it might be quicker or easier to do it yourself.
9. Encourage development of responsibility in such ways as hanging up clothing, picking up toys, and taking care of possessions.
10. Encourage communication, sharing, and taking turns. Through "show and tell," children will have opportunities to relate experiences and share possessions brought from home.

11. Encourage use of clay, scissors, paints, crayons, paste, pencil, etc. Practice cutting and pasting at home.
12. Try to have child sleep 10 to 12 hours a night.
13. If your child will be walking to school, teach him/her the shortest, safest route between home and school. Do this a few weeks before school opens. Time the trip so your child arrives at school on time but not ahead of time. Teach child to obey traffic signals, and teach him/her that the police officer, the school patrol, and block parents are friends.
14. Acquaint child with safe areas for play. Offer activities that build gross motor skills such as ball games and bike riding.
15. Mark child's clothing and possessions (coats, hats, gloves, boots, painting smock) with his/her name.
16. Give your child opportunities to interact with children and adults other than family members.
17. Develop child's independence by having him/her enter school building and walk to classroom without you.

Kindergarten, 3/06

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TRANSITION

from home to school

a preview of kindergarten

MUHLENBERG ELEMENTARY CENTER

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