

Getting Ready for Kindergarten...

The following is a list of readiness skills that can help you prepare your child for Kindergarten.

Personal Information

Say his/her first name

Know his/her age

General Knowledge and Motor Skills

Cut paper with blunt scissors.

Hold a pencil correctly.

Copy letters and shapes

Put together puzzles

Understand the ideas of numbers

Know basic colors and shapes

Follow basic safety rules

Can button/zip coat, pants, and/or shirt

Open snacks

Social and Emotional Skills

Play cooperatively with others

Label and express feelings and emotions appropriately

Verbalize wants and needs

Willingly try new activities

Wait patiently for their turn

Take care of personal needs (toilet, hand washing, clothes)

Attend to story or activity for 10 minutes

Academic Skills

Recognize own name

Prints his/her name- (first letter capital followed by lowercase)

Follow simple 1-2 step directions

Begin to recognize letters

Begin to recognize letters represent sounds

Begin to recognize numbers 1-10

Count up to 10

The Kindergarten Program

The Township of Franklin School District welcomes parents of new Kindergarten students into a partnership with the district. Our goal is to provide a strong academic program which meets New Jersey State standards while nurturing these young children and providing a safe, caring learning environment. Our program is designed to meet the NJ standards in reading, writing, and math by the end of the year.

The Township of Franklin School District staff understands and respects that each child is a unique person with an individual personality and family background. The beginning years in school are among the most important for learning positive attitudes toward school and gaining social relationships. The staff works diligently to provide learning experiences designed to help children reach state standards while supporting their individual developing abilities.

Social and Emotional Development

In Kindergarten, important lifelong learning skills will be emphasized, including...

- Respecting others
- Accepting responsibility
- Becoming more self sufficient
- Cooperating with peers and adults
- Problem solving
- Communicating about what he/she has learned
- Following directions
- Transitioning easily from one task to another
- Handling mistakes in a positive way
- Creating and imagining
- Asking for help

Mathematics

In Kindergarten mathematics, students begin developing the concept of numbers by counting, drawing, writing, and ordering numbers. Students combine, sort, and compare groups of objects based on qualities such as shape, size, and color. They learn that addition is joining groups of things together, and subtraction is separating groups.

By the end of Kindergarten, your child will learn to...

Numbers

- Count to at least 100
- Show how many up to 20
- Identify and write the numerals 0 to 20
- Use real objects to add and subtract to 10
- Tell what number comes before or after
- Add and subtract to 5 with and without manipulatives
- Fluently add and subtract within 5

Sizes (Measurement)

- Use comparative vocabulary (longer/shorter, etc.)
- Sort objects based on an attribute (color, size, shape, etc.)

Shapes (Geometry) 2D & 3D

- Describe, compare, and sort objects by characteristics
- Describe locations of objects (in, out, over, behind, etc.)
- Name 2D and 3D shapes

Problem Solving

- Solve problems by drawing, counting, or using objects
- State a problem (i.e. Are there enough red crayons for each person in the group?)

Reading

In Kindergarten, children learn more about books, and their appreciation of reading grows. Children begin to understand the relationship between letters and sounds. In reading, Kindergarteners learn to use "sight words" and reading strategies to read simple texts on their own.

By the end of Kindergarten, your child will learn to...

- Identify letters of the alphabet
- Identify all consonants, short vowels, and long vowels
- Use common sounds to read three to four letter words
- Ask and answer questions about text
- Draw pictures to demonstrate understanding and ideas from read-alouds
- Identify and produce rhyming words
- Blend sounds to make words
- Make connections between stories and their own personal experiences
- Retell stories using beginning, middle, and end
- With guidance, identify characters, setting, and important events in the story
- Identify parts of a book

- Listen to and discuss literature that represents different cultures and traditions

Writing

In Kindergarten, students learn to build their own simple sentences. Even at this early age, students start to understand that they can write to tell personal stories or share what they know with others.

By the end of the Kindergarten year, your child will learn to...

- Form upper and lower case letters
- Write from left to right, top to bottom
- Write his/her first and last name (capitalizing first letters)
- Spell “sight words” correctly
- Use phonetic spelling
- Draw and write to retell, inform, or entertain
- Understand where to place punctuation and capital letters in a sentence
- Write complete sentences
- Proper spaces between words

Communication

In Kindergarten, students increase their vocabulary and communication skills through shared experiences.

By the end of Kindergarten, your child will learn to...

- Listen attentively in large and small group settings
- Follow two step spoken directions
- Make comments and answer questions related to a topic
- Retell a simple story after hearing it
- Explain orally what is shown in a picture
- Allow others to speak without interruption
- Ask clear questions for information
- Express own ideas and interests
- Demonstrate conversational skills

Some Helpful Facts to Know...

Entrance...

Children must be five years old before October 1st to enter Kindergarten. Proof of age, residency, and immunizations are required at the time of registration.

School days...

Kindergarten is a full day program. You will be notified of your child's teacher and school hours of operation prior to the start of the school year.

Attendance...

Regular attendance is very important. Your child is developing attitudes about school which will have a significant impact on success in school and educational development. Please send your child to school every day unless there is illness or a family emergency.

Arrival and dismissal...

Sending your child to school on time is imperative. It is difficult for everyone when a child arrives late, since important activities and directions begin as soon as school starts at 9:12. Arriving late to school puts undue stress on **EVERYONE** including your child.

If you are planning to pick up your child from school, please send a note to the teacher and follow – up with a phone call to the school’s main office.

Ways to Help at Home

You are your child's first teacher and most significant adult in his/her life.

Set time aside for your child. Visit the library and read to your child regularly. Include nursery rhymes and poetry.

Take time to talk with your child about school, and ask about events of their day. Share your day as well. Go for walks and talk together about what you see. Talk while you are working. Spend time listening to your child.

Give your child paper and crayons, pencils, and markers. Encourage writing and drawing for many purposes.

Limit television viewing and electronic games. Watch selected programs together and discuss them with your child.

Arrange special time alone with each child in your family.

Children learn through play. Give your child plenty of time to explore through play. Provide outdoor time to encourage physical development.

Most importantly, have fun learning with your child.