

What to Expect In Kindergarten

Kindergarten is such a wonderful milestone in your child's life with many new experiences. Here are a few things to expect during the first few weeks:

- Your child might be very tired. Many kindergarteners will begin to feel more rested within the next few months
- Your child might not be able to tell you what they did during the day since many exciting things happen. Please feel free to talk with your child's teacher.
- Your child will need to practice reading and writing their names. Counting and recognizing numbers 0-5.



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Glenallen Elementary
School

What can I do to
get my child ready
for kindergarten?



"North Port's First and Finest"

Here are some great ideas to help your child get ready for kindergarten...



Social Skills

When asked, kindergarten teachers often respond that coming to school with good social skills is imperative for success in kindergarten. Here are a few tips to help your child succeed!

- Play games that encourage turn taking and sharing.
- Provide plenty of opportunities for your child to play with others and interact in a positive way.
- Help your child use his/her words to express anger and solve problems.
- Explain why sharing toys is important. (It helps everyone have more fun!)
- Encourage your child to make independent play choices and to speak up clearly when they need help.
- Encourage your child to use please and thank you often.

Self-Help Skills

Your child will be in a class of approximately 18 children. This may mean that they have to wait their turn and follow directions along with the group. It also means that they have a chance to develop independent work habits, learn to work and play with a group, and learn from the diversity of their classmates.

- Encourage them to listen to oral directions and obey rules.
- Even children who have been toileting for years still ask for help. Please encourage children to toilet independently and wash hands.
- Allow your child to make choices. (ex: which socks to wear) Making choices builds independence and confidence.
- Teach your child to use zippers, buttons, and snaps. **Make sure that he/she can tie or Velcro his/her shoes.**

Academic Skills

Every child progresses at a different rate. Avoid comparing him or her with others. Don't worry about pressuring your child to learn new skills before he/she is ready. However, there are some things that you can do to help get your child ready without stress.

- Help your child practice writing their first name.
- Help your child learn the letters, sounds and names of the colors.
- Teach them their first/last name, address and phone number.

- Ask who, what, when, where or why questions after reading a story and during conversations.
- Give your child simple sorting tasks that involve matching, sorting or counting objects.
- Ask your child to tell a story. Write it down and read it back to them.
- Read, read, read!!!

Planning for Success

Even if your child has attended preschool, kindergarten can be a big adjustment. Here are some ideas to help your child feel ready:

- Adjust your child's sleeping and eating times to the school year schedule around three weeks before the year begins.
- Tell stories about your own positive kindergarten memories.
- Visit the school website.
- Have a play date with a child that attends Glenallen.

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