



Kindergarten Handbook

NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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WELCOME TO NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We want to wish you a very warm welcome from all the staff here at Northville Christian. We are excited that you have chosen NCS as the school that will come alongside you in the training of your children. Northville Christian School's purpose and mission seeks to prepare our students for the eternal as well as the temporal.

Proverbs 1:7 says the very beginning of knowledge (or truth) is the reverent or worshipful fear of the Lord. In this we believe that our academics can only be taught from a bibliocentric worldview with Christ as the center.

Please take time to read this handbook and thoroughly discuss it with your child. This will clarify any questions you may have regarding school policy. If you find you still have any questions concerning its interpretation or wish to discuss any portion of its contents please feel free to contact the administrative office.

Also, you may want to keep this handbook in an accessible location for easy reference when questions arise.

May the Lord bless you, and we look forward to serving you!

Many blessings,

Ken Storey
Principal

BRIEF HISTORY OF NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Northville Christian School originated from a vision created in the hearts and minds of the dedicated people in the body of Christian Community Church of Northville. This vision was not only for a school of academic excellence, but also one that has the capacity to teach subjects from a Christian perspective, incorporating biblical concepts and moral standards in the classroom.

The reality of this vision began in 1975, with the institution of Christian Community Preschool, which was housed in the church, located at 41355 West Six Mile, Northville.

In 1982, grades kindergarten through fifth was added to create Christian Community Day School. Every year thereafter, one grade was added to the school making it a complete preschool through eighth grade by 1986. In 1988, Fairlane Assembly of God and Christian Community Church in Northville Township merged to form Fairlane Assembly of God in two locations. Since Fairlane Assembly had a kindergarten through twelfth grade program in Dearborn Heights, a merger of the two schools occurred. The Northville location became Fairlane Christian School West.

In an effort to better meet the varying needs of the two schools, the congregation of Fairlane Assembly of God wholeheartedly endorsed a separation of the churches and schools in January of 1992, in order that each may diligently pursue the call and mission of God. At that time, Fairlane Christian School West changed its name to Northville Christian School.

More than a decade of work, dedication, and love has resulted in over 475 students reaping the benefits of a quality, Christ-centered education. Northville Christian School is committed to instilling the vision and practice of excellence in academics, godly character, and ministry to others.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God.

We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory.

We believe the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

We believe a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

We believe each child is endowed with a spirit, soul, mind, and body that need to be developed. **Therefore**, the curriculum must be well rounded, and teachers must be devoted to high academic standards.

We believe the education process is an extension of the home rather than a substitute for it. **Therefore,** a child's education is a joint effort between the school and home.

We believe the most important decision a student makes is to dedicate himself/herself to follow after Jesus Christ. **Therefore,** a child's parents and teachers must be most influential in guiding him/her to that decision and leading him/her toward a deeper commitment to Christian discipleship.

VISION STATEMENT

NCS...touching lives for eternity.

MISSION AND PURPOSE

Northville Christian School touches lives for eternity by providing a Christ-centered educational community, which instills the vision and practice of excellence in academics, character, and ministry.

PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We believe that God is the source of all knowledge and wisdom. **Therefore,** the result of education should be a deeper understanding of the nature of God and respect for the laws of His universe.

We believe each child is a unique expression of God's love and creativity. **Therefore,** each child's developmental pattern, abilities, and interests need to be considered in the process of his/her education.

We believe each child is endowed with a spirit, soul, mind, and body that need to be developed. **Therefore,** the curriculum must be well rounded, and teachers must be devoted to high academic standards.

We believe the education process is an extension of the home rather than a substitute for it. **Therefore,** a child's education is a joint effort between the school and home.

We believe the Judeo-Christian ethic is the foundation of our system of law and freedom. **Therefore,** the education process should strive to instill a love of country and patriotic spirit in all students.

We believe the most important decision a student makes is to dedicate himself/herself to follow after Jesus Christ. **Therefore,** a child's parents and teachers must be most influential in guiding him/her to that decision and leading him/her toward a deeper commitment to Christian discipleship.

SCHOOL DEFINITION

Northville Christian School exists as a coeducational day school that encompasses preschool through eighth grade. It is operated as a non-profit educational ministry of Northville Christian Assembly of God, with the school campus in Northville, Michigan.

Northville Christian School is governed by a school board appointed by the church board. The school board adheres to the Statement of Faith as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of Northville Christian Assembly of God.

In order to accomplish our mission, the school provides a Christ-centered education to qualified students from the Detroit-Metro area without distinction of race, national origin, or socio-economic status.

ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Northville Christian School admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at Northville Christian. Also, the school does not discriminate on the basis of race in administering its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic, and other school-administered programs. We do reserve the right to refuse admittance to students whose doctrinal differences would be publicly espoused.

Requirements for Admission

1. The parents and student must recognize, accept, and encourage the school's emphasis on Christ-centered teaching.
2. A recommendation from a pastor or an interview with the principal is a prerequisite for enrollment.
3. Presentation of birth certificate and inoculation record is required for admittance into kindergarten. New students must also submit a completed *Health Examination Form*. This physical can be completed no earlier than six months prior to the first day of school.
4. Students entering kindergarten should be five by September 1st. All prospective kindergarten students will be evaluated using the kindergarten readiness instrument. (A screening fee of \$25.00 must be paid at the time of the screening.) If a child does not meet the cut off date, an above average score must be obtained on this screening. Based on the results of the screening instrument, as well as other factors, the administration will make the final decision regarding admissions.
5. There must be a commitment by the parents to:
 - help when and where they are able
 - participate in school functions
 - abide by school rules and regulations
 - pay tuition and fees in a timely manner
 - participate actively in Scrip and other fund-raisers
 - abide by payment policies regulated by the accounting office
6. Parents must recognize that failure to abide by the rules and Northville Christian School's philosophy of education will result in non-acceptance or dismissal.
7. A formal acceptance of the applicant by either a written or verbal confirmation.
8. All new students are automatically placed on a one-semester probation. After that time, it will be determined whether the student will be allowed to continue to attend Northville Christian School.

New Student Enrollment Procedures

1. Return a completed *Student Application Form* and *Supplemental Information* to the school office and schedule an appointment for entrance screening.
2. Make arrangements for both parents (if possible) or guardian, to meet with the principal for an interview. Interviews are by appointment only. (NOTE: Students entering sixth, seventh, or eighth grade must be present for a portion of the interview.)
3. Recognize that additional information may be required, and that the administration will make the final admission decision.
4. Complete the necessary forms in the school office and pay the enrollment fees, upon notification of acceptance. Enrollment cannot be guaranteed if fees are not paid.

Re-enrollment

1. Students presently enrolled in the school are given first opportunity to re-enroll for the next school year. Re-enrollment is not automatic; step #4, as outlined above, must be repeated annually.
2. A student will not be re-admitted if he/she has an outstanding tuition account from the previous school year.

NCS FINANCIAL POLICIES

1. All fees are non-refundable (i.e. application, enrollment, testing, book, tuition).
2. Tuition payments are due on the first of each month. Grace is extended until the tenth of the month. After the tenth of the month late fees are accessed.
3. Payments should be made by check or money order only, payable to Northville Christian School. Payments may be brought to the school office or mailed.
4. Coupon must be submitted with each payment to ensure proper credit. If you do not receive your coupons, please contact the school tuition clerk. Failure to receive the coupons DOES NOT waive liability for payment.
5. If your billing address (the address where payment coupons should be sent) is different from the address listed on the enrollment form or other school records, you must advise the tuition clerk.
6. Tuition is payable in ten monthly payments: June 1, and August 1 through April 1. The June 1 tuition payment is non-refundable. After June 10, no further grace will be extended and you will lose your child's re-enrollment status.
7. Families wishing to pay their tuition in full will receive 2.5% discount (off the total tuition amount) if paid by September 10. The June tuition payment must still be paid on time if you elect this option.
8. If you are unable to meet a payment by the tenth of the month, you must notify the school tuition clerk at 248-348-9031.
9. Delinquent accounts will be charged a late fee according to the following schedule:

Grade	Over 10 days late	Over 20 days late	Over 30 days late
Preschool	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
Kindergarten-8th	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00

9. Delinquent accounts (over 30 days): students will be excluded from class until the account is brought current.

10. Tuition is paid on a monthly basis. Consequently, if a student withdraws during the school year, parents will be charged a full month's tuition even though the child may not be in attendance the entire month.
11. Tuition will first be credited to any outstanding balance (e.g., late fees, book and material, sport fees, and latch-key) before being credited to the tuition account.
12. When our bank returns a check, a fee of \$25.00 will be charged to the student's account. An NSF check will not be re-submitted and the check must be redeemed with cash or by money order. Tuition paid with a NSF check is considered late and ALL applicable fees will apply. NSF fees will be applied to all returned checks, e.g., tuition, fees, Scrip purchases, sport fees, etc.
13. If there is a current year outstanding balance with NCS, this delinquency must be paid in full by June 30 in order to continue the child's enrollment for the upcoming school year. Re-enrollment will not be accepted if your account is delinquent.
14. If you have an outstanding balance at another Christian school, you will NOT be accepted unless you are making FAITHFUL payments to resolve the delinquency.
15. Report cards and school records will not be released until ALL accounts are up-to-date.
16. All families must participate in the mandatory Scrip fundraiser. The amount of \$2500 per school year will be assessed at the end of each semester and a fee of \$75.00 per semester will be charged for those families that have not been participating in the program.
17. NCS must contract with their teachers and purchase instructional materials for the entire school year on the projected enrollment. Long before the school year even begins the school is contractually obligated to meet the cost of running the school regardless of what happens to enrollment prior to the start of the school year. With this in mind NCS has created three options for paying Tuition in their preferred order:
 - a. Full Tuition payment by September 10, 2006 for a 2.5% a discount off the total tuition amount.
 - b. Two payments of 50% of the total Tuition with the first payment due by September 10, 2006 and the second due by January 10, 2006.
 - c. Ten Monthly payments starting June 1, 2006 and paid monthly August 1, 2006 through April 1, 2007. Book Fees are due July 1, 2006.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

The purpose of NCS's grading system is to give parents and students an indication of the progress or lack of progress by the student. Grades are recorded on each student's permanent academic record kept on file in the school office.

Grading Scale

The school uses the following grading scale for kindergarten:

3	Mastery/Proficient
2	Developing
1	Emerging
NY	Not Yet

Report Cards

Report cards are prepared four times a year, at the end of each quarter. Report cards are sent home with each child on the dates publicized in *The Cougar Chronicle*, which is published weekly.

Homework

Kindergarten students will typically be assigned homework one night a week. There are a number of reasons for assigning homework: young learners benefit from numerous and varied opportunities to practice skills and concepts, it provides parents with opportunities to observe what their children are doing and learning, and these assignments provide moments of enrichment in which the parent and child work together. The interactions are meant to be enjoyable and fun, NOT stressful. *Please, do not discourage your young learner by demanding perfection.* The process of working and interacting together with you, as well as the reinforcing of learned skills and concepts will reap numerous educational rewards.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Twice during the school year (fall and spring), days will be set aside specifically for parents to meet with teachers to discuss the progress of their children. No students will be in school at this time. However, parent-teacher conferences are not limited to these times. Conferences and other contacts between home and school are encouraged at all times and may be initiated by either the teacher or the parent. Appointments can be arranged by contacting the school office and leaving a message for the teacher.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Being Our Best Creating Positive Discipline Within Our School

Our Beliefs

We want everyone at our school to personally experience a relationship with Jesus. We know that as boys and girls discover the power and peace that Jesus promises, they will never be satisfied with disobedience. In the book of Ephesians in the Bible, God tells us the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now in children who follow God. We want to see our students become their best as they obey God everyday.

God tells us that He disciplines those children he loves. (Hebrews 12) Every great athlete must discipline their body if they hope to win the prize. Discipline simply means we do not give to ourselves those things that may feel good, but will ultimately harm us. Here in our school if a student receives discipline from an adult, it is because we want them to become their best.

Our Code of Honor

We will act and think in the way that will bring praise to the Lord, honor to our parents and respect to our name.

Our Staff Will Guide Our Students to Victory

1. We will respond to each child with respect and dignity.
 - Ephesians 6 says, "Fathers do not scold and nag your children, but bring them up in the loving admonition of the Lord."

- Staff will redirect the student to consider the commitment he/she has made towards God, their family and their classmates.
2. We will teach and pray for our students to discern good from evil.
 - Bible classes will have practical daily application.
 - Problems will serve as opportunities to teach a new strength.
 3. We will train them to practice the skills they will need to live within a community of integrity.
 - Teachers will provide an opportunity for students to practice new behaviors through skits and role-playing.
 - During a problem, children will be reminded to practice those responsible behaviors taught in a class.
 - Staff will thoroughly practice our procedures with our students at the beginning of the school year and frequently remind them throughout the calendar year.
 4. We will create inspiring moments to capture the student's attention to see the possibilities that God offers them.
 - Bible lessons will be relevant to their daily lives.
 - Experiential activities will serve as an opportunity to explore and practice new behaviors in a safe environment.
 5. We will challenge them to take ownership for their own actions and the relationships within the school.
 - Children who disobey will be reminded to follow the biblical values they have been taught by their parents and teachers.
 - Consequences will follow the policies of this school.
 6. We will celebrate the efforts children make to love and obey.
 - Character Awards will be presented during chapel.
 - The teachers will make positive letters and phone calls.
 7. We will respectfully restore them back to a proper relationship with God and the community when they do sin.
 - Consequences will follow the policies of the school.
 - Children will be encouraged to ask for forgiveness when needed.
 8. We will find the key that will open our students' hearts to want to be their best for the Lord.

The Discipleship Meeting

The Daily Discipleship Meeting teaches children to be responsible for themselves and for their classmates. A disciple is a follower of Jesus and must ask himself or herself, "What would Jesus do?" The meeting begins with each student encouraging one another in the Lord. After that the class follows God's plan found in Matthew 18 to solve any problem we may have had with one another.

A Summary of the Process:

1. Children gather in a circle each morning for prayer and a word of encouragement from their peers.
2. After learning how Christians are to resolve problems, the children begin responding towards grievances by biblical standards.

- Confront a person who offended you in private.
 - If the offender does not wish to resolve the matter, the first child asks several fellow students to hear the complaint.
 - If no solution is found, the students bring the matter to the whole class.
 - A child can request help by placing his/her name on the “day’s agenda”.
3. The book of Romans states that it is God’s kindness that leads to repentance. A respectful approach to problem solving will have a better chance of winning a child over to the Lord.

We have found students to feel more comfortable and encouraged in classrooms that uphold Christian values and accountability. Children have experienced more fun and success when allowed to be self-responsible. Children have begun to develop self-control and a stronger motivation to honor others.

Consequences For Misbehavior

It is inevitable that children will disobey at times. We will respond to misbehavior as an opportunity to guide the child towards repentance. One part of that process will be the use of logical consequences administered with reason and respect.

1. When a student disobeys, staff will address the child immediately with a reminder that misbehavior will hinder her from becoming her best. Serious acts of misbehavior will be responded to with an appropriate discussion between the teacher, principal, parent and youth. Consequences will be in line with the level of misbehavior.
2. A second act of disobedience, in the same day, will prompt the staff to direct the student to assess her own behavior in writing with a solution. Younger students may give an oral plan. The child may receive a “time out”.
 - Teachers will create a plan with a colleague to host each other’s students in a time out situation.
 - Teachers may determine if additional consequences are necessary.
3. A third act of minor disobedience within the day will result in a major form of intervention by the teacher. The teacher may impose a logical consequence, like restricting recess, or they may send the youth to the principal for a solution.
4. The parents will be called when there are 3 incidents of misbehavior in one day or whenever the principal is asked to confront a child.
5. Two interventions by the principal in a 30-day period may result in an in-school suspension (ISS), if the teacher and principal decide it would be effective for that particular student. Teachers will have to host this student in their room for their colleague during an ISS.
 - The student will not receive “zeros” for her work until the second ISS.
 - If a pattern develops where a student receives two ISS in consecutive months, the staff can choose to escalate the consequences.
 - Serious misbehavior will result in immediate appropriate consequences.
6. After two ISS within a 30-day period, a third day of misbehavior may result in an out of school suspension (OSS). Decisions will be based upon the principal and teacher’s assessment, parent’s involvement, the nature of the behavior and the student’s level of remorse.
7. Two OSS will result in a special review with the possibility of expulsion. Expulsion can also occur sooner with serious acts of misbehavior.
8. An act of disrespect towards another person must be personally resolved to the offended party’s satisfaction. Restitution must be provided to the offended party. The offended must receive an apology. The instigator may even have to apologize to the offended person’s parents.
9. Consequences should follow the guidelines of logical or natural consequences.

Basic Behavioral Expectations

1. Students are to ask themselves if their actions are honoring to God.
2. Students are to respond towards others with respect and kindness.
3. Students are to respond to adults with respect and obedience.
4. Students are to remain silent in the halls and stairwells when classes are in session.
5. Students are to have responsible fun with one another during lunch and recess. By following the staffs' directions during this time everyone can have a safe and good time.
6. Students are to leave and enter the school in a timely and responsible manner. Students are not to be in the halls before 8:30 am, or after 3:45 pm. Staff will take them to latchkey.

Students will be responsible to engage in safe and responsible behaviors. (Examples of unsafe behaviors would include sliding down the banisters, throwing objects, being in an unauthorized area, pushing, etc.)

Hallways

Students must be silent in the halls and stairways during actual instruction time. When 20 students try to whisper in the hall it is easily heard and disruptive to neighboring classes.

When students enter the school at the beginning of the day they are to quietly go to their room. They are to prepare for work to begin promptly at 8:45 am. It is not playtime.

Lunchroom Procedures

Lunch is a great time for students to meet with their friends. They should enjoy fun conversations after a morning of schoolwork. With so many young people in one room there are certain practices that must be observed for a safe fun experience. If a large number of children do whatever they desire at lunch, the chaos will ruin everyone's day.

Here are some guidelines to make lunch a relaxing time:

1. Students are to laugh and have fun conversations.
2. They should be courteous and respectful towards others.
3. They should keep their voices low and walk while in the lunchroom.
4. When the lights are turned off, all students must become silent and listen to the instructions being given.
5. Students must remain seated until adult permission is given.

Students are responsible to clean up around their immediate area. They are to then appropriately dispose of their trash.

Students refusing to respect others during lunch will be asked to remain in at recess to provide restitution for their behavior.

1. A student who forgets a lunch or forgets to order a lunch must wait until everyone is served before he will receive his lunch.
2. Soda pop is not allowed unless parent and teacher agree upon it.

Playground Procedures

1. Students must stay away from all construction areas and traffic areas.
2. Students may only play in those areas allowed by recess staff.
3. Hold all balls and toys when traveling to and from recess.
4. Refrain from climbing the soccer posts or nets.

5. Follow the directions of all student recess leaders for safety.

When in doubt, do not engage in behaviors that may threaten the safety of yourself or your peers.

Line up quietly, both before and after recess, and follow the staff.

Restroom Breaks

1. We do not wish disturb others, so please be silent in the line.
2. Students should discuss in their Discipleship Meeting their plan for being responsible.
3. Students should respect one another and remain quiet in the restroom.
4. Students should hold one another responsible to the rules.
5. Respect the facilities. It is not a playground.
6. Clean up after yourselves.

DRESS CODE

Children should dress in comfortable, durable and simple clothing, free of complicated fastenings. Please do not dress your child in their best clothing. All outer garments, including coats, boots, sweaters, hats, and mittens should be labeled.

Tee shirts do not have to be tucked in. If there is a picture or slogan on a tee shirt it must promote wholesome, traditional values. For example, college names, professional sports teams and Christian slogans are acceptable; however, Pokemon, Bart Simpson, Goosebumps, witches, devils, rock bands, Hard Rock Café, Planet Hollywood, South Park, etc., are not acceptable.

Kindergartners may wear matching sweat suits and shorts anytime.

Jeans must be clean, neat, and free of holes, tears, and/or patches.

Sunglasses and hats may not be worn inside the school building.

Make-up and jewelry (including necklaces, bracelets, and rings) are not appropriate for kindergarten.

Sneakers are the preferred shoes for kindergarten, however dress shoes are also acceptable. **All black-soled sneakers must be non-marking or non-skid. Socks must be worn.** Sandals must have back straps.

Hair length for boys must be modest, cut short and off the collar, with no ponytails or extreme styles. For girls, no extreme hairstyles are permitted.

The student dress code, as stated in the NCS Student Handbook, begins in first grade.

LIBRARY POLICIES

The kindergarten aide will select books from the library to be kept in the classroom to be enjoyed by all.

YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

Birthday Celebrations

Birthday treats may be sent to school on or near your child's birthday. If you are celebrating with a party outside of school, please mail your invitations unless you are inviting the entire class. No cake is allowed. Please use only finger foods, i.e. cookies, pre-packaged snacks, veges, etc.

Communicate

Discuss with the teacher any information that will help her better understand your child. Always contact the teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding kindergarten.

Label Everything

Please label all possessions, such as sweaters, lunch boxes, boots, jackets, school bags, and school supplies. The school does maintain a LOST AND FOUND. All unmarked items not claimed from the LOST AND FOUND will be disposed of regularly, usually by donating to charity. The LOST AND FOUND is located outside the school office.

Organize

Send your child to school regularly and promptly each day. Be sure your child is well fed, clean, comfortably dressed, and adequately rested.

Provide Book Bag

Please supply your child with a pocket folder and tote bag for daily papers. We recommend a very simple bag, large enough to hold large papers and shoes.

Read

Read all notices that are sent home and return them promptly, if necessary. Check your child's daily work, and show interest and encouragement. Please read *The Cougar Chronicle*. The Cougar Chronicle will be distributed to families in a mass email on Wednesday evening. **Each family will need to supply the school office with an email address for communication purposes.** The email address will not be sold or loaned and used expressly for the use of school information. Families that are not able to receive email may pick up a copy of the Cougar Chronicle outside of the school office on Thursday evening. This is a vital communication link between the school and home. Important information concerning the school and upcoming events will be included.

School Hours

Classes begin promptly at 8:45 AM. Parents should plan on arriving no earlier than 8:30 AM to help your child prepare for his/her school day. Students arriving before 8:30 AM must report to room G04 for Kids Club. Kindergarten students are dismissed at 3:25 PM. In order to ensure the safety of all our students, children not picked up by 3:45 PM will be escorted to Kids Club and signed in.

Sessions

Northville Christian School offers two sessions of full-day kindergarten, which meet three days a week - Monday, Wednesday, Friday (MWF) and Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (TTHF).

Student Arrival and Pick-up

Kindergartners should enter the building through the northeast doors. Parents are welcome to walk their children into the classroom. Beginning October 1st, “good-bye” may only be said outside the classroom door.

The kindergarten teacher will walk the students outside through the northeast doors at 3:25 PM. Parents may pick up their children at that time.

Use Envelopes

When sending money to school with your child, place the money in the envelope with child’s name and the purpose for which the money is intended on the OUTSIDE.

HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Help Your Child Learn

- To say full name, address, and phone number
- To put on and take off own outer clothes
- To tie own shoes
- To take care of toilet needs

Give Your Child Opportunity

- To play with other children
- To carry out simple instructions - give three simple directions and check to see if your child can follow them in order without becoming distracted.
- To be responsible for completing simple tasks
- To spend time away from mother and family
- To participate in activities away from home

Give Your Child Opportunity

- To use scissors
- To use paste
- To use crayons
- To use pencils
- To learn the eight colors (red, blue, yellow, orange, green, purple, brown, and black)
- To practice counting to ten using objects
- To learn the letter names (the alphabet)
- To learn the parts of the body

Help Your Child Develop Good Language Patterns

Do not use “baby talk” when speaking to your child. Children learn language by imitating the language of the adult people around them. Don’t copy your child but rather help your child to copy you.

During kindergarten, if you teach your child to write his/her name, **please DO NOT use all capital letters**. Capitalize only the first letter in each name.

Read To Your Child As Often As Possible

Help your child enjoy books and stories by reading to him/her every day. (Researchers say this is the single most important thing parents can do to help their children in school.)

SOME SKILLS FOR A SUCCESSFUL KINDERGARTEN

Cognitive

- Can count in sequence
- Can count up to twelve objects
- Can follow three part directions
- Has understandable speech - can speak in complete sentences
- Draws a fairly recognizable man
- Can recognize/duplicate simple shapes
- Has the ability to stay on task until it is completed
- Has awareness of the alphabet

Fine Motor

- Shows a preference for a dominant hand
- Prints name by capitalizing the first letter and using lower case on the rest
- Traces on lines
- Colors within lines
- Cuts well with scissors
- Can tie, zip, button, and snap

Large Motor

- Can hop on each foot
- Can balance and catch a ball
- Can walk on a balance beam
- Can skip

MINIMAL SKILLS NECESSARY FOR ENTRY INTO FIRST GRADE

Language Skills

- Has age appropriate vocabulary
- Language development
- Labels simple objects
- Speaks in complete sentences

Math

- Recognizes numbers 0-20
- Counts to 100 or higher
- Constructs sets up to 12

Reading Readiness Skills

- Recognizes all alphabet letters (upper and lower case)
- Knows all the sounds for the letters
- Recognizes words and phrases
- Sequences and classifies
- Recognizes rhyming words
- Recognizes words with the same initial sound

Social Skills

- Works and plays cooperatively with others
- Follows directions
- Takes responsibility for classroom tasks
- Concentrates and performs tasks in a large group setting
- Completes tasks independently with success