

Getting Ready For Kindergarten

The following is a helpful list of readiness skills to help both you and your child continue to prepare for an exciting year in kindergarten. Your child will still be acquiring some of these skills in the coming months as he/she grows and develops.

Listening and Language Skill Readiness:

- Follows simple one- and two-step directions
- Attends to adult directed tasks for short periods of time
- Understands basic concept words: up, down, in, out, behind, over
- Speaks clearly and in complete sentences of 5-6 words
- Expresses feelings and needs
- Tells a story about a past event

Parent Teaching Tip: Speaking with your child by asking and answering questions and having everyday conversations greatly helps a child prepare for many academic and social tasks within the kindergarten classroom.

Early Literacy Skill Readiness:

- Recognizes/Identifies some letters of the alphabet
- Recognizes/Identifies letters in his/her first name
- Correctly holds and turns pages of a storybook for sustained period of time
- Recognizes and names basic colors: (red, green, orange, yellow, blue, black, brown, purple)
- **Might be able to:** produce some letter sounds and produce rhyming words

Parent Teaching Tip: The most important aspect of your child's literacy development is reading aloud with your child every day. This helps to build so many of the pre-reading skills young children need in their literacy development.

Suggested types of books: nursery rhymes, fairy tales, ABC books, books with repetition, rhyming books, storybooks that interest your child.

Our district web site has lots of wonderful web links for primary age children: from ETSD main web page click "Programs and Instruction," "Language Arts Curriculum K-12," on the left hand side of the page, click on "Parent Resources," "Internet Resources."

Letter Factory: This video, by Leap Frog, has been highly recommended by numerous ETSD parents as one of the most valuable and enjoyable resources for their pre-K child.

Fine and Gross Motor Skill Readiness:

- Uses dominant hand to correctly hold a pencil or crayon when drawing/writing
- Writes his/her first name
- Draws basic shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle)
- Cuts using scissors
- Completes simple puzzles
- Runs, jumps, walks backwards, and uses alternate feet to walk up steps

Parent Teaching Tip: All of these developmental activities are pre-skills to academic learning. Make it fun with simple games like Simon Says; use a little chalk board for practicing letter formation and child's name.

Math Skill Readiness:

- Recognizes basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)
- Sorts items by color, shape, and size
- Recognizes numbers 1-10
- Orally counts from 1-10
- Understands math concepts like: big-bigger, more-less, small-smaller

Parent Teaching Tip: Math activities involving food are lots of fun for children: sort the colors in jelly beans, crackers of different sizes and shapes, count out 10 M&M's, etc.

Social Skill Readiness:

- Plays, shares, and gets along with other children
- Is able to use words to get adult attention
- Follows/Understands rules (example: like waiting turn, saying please and thank you)

Parent Teaching Tip: Take advantage of our wonderful Exeter Library. Look for their free story hours for social interaction with other children.

Self-Help Skill Readiness:

- Goes to bathroom by him/herself
- Puts on coat
- Blows own nose

As your child embarks on his/her educational journey, remember that you are your child's first and most influential teacher. Your child's ideas about education, and its significance, begin with you. We look forward to working with you and your student.

Please Phone Us If You Have Questions

During the preschool year, we want you to have as much information as possible about our school district. We want you to feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about our district, our policies, and our services.

The following people are available to help you. Feel free to call, make an appointment, or visit with them to discuss your questions or concerns.

Diana Fetzer – Guidance Counselor – Owatin Creek Elementary – 610-406-4580 ext. 8031

Virginia Eisenhuth – Guidance Counselor – Lorane Elementary – 610-582-8608 ext. 4006

Megan Hunt – Guidance Counselor – Jacksonwald Elementary – 610-779-1820 ext. 5210

In the spring, your child will be invited to a special session of kindergarten. On this day, we will introduce your child to our kindergarten teachers and our kindergarten program. While the children are meeting with the kindergarten teachers, parents will be introduced to school personnel and will learn more about the school district.