



2021-2022 Kindergarten

Dear Kindergarten Parents:

Transitioning into kindergarten can be a challenging time for children. Children benefit greatly from home support as they enter this new phase of their education. The time and energy you spend helping your child's first impression to be a positive one is time and energy well spent. Most kids take to kindergarten like fish to water, but the more you can mentally, physically and emotionally prepare your child for the transition, the easier it will be. Some suggestions for you: }

Remember that you are setting the tone for how your child views this experience. Discuss how excited you were when you attended your first day of school. If older siblings have had positive experiences, involve them in the discussion. } Read stories about kindergarten and school. Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come! by Nancy Carlson, The Night Before Kindergarten by Natasha Wing and Julie Durrell, and Mrs. Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate and Ashley Wolff are great "getting ready" books. } During the month preceding your child's entry into kindergarten, begin routines that will work during the school year. Paying attention to bedtimes and diet prior to school starting will make a big difference for your child. } If your child has not had experience being around other children, set up play dates with neighbors, family, and/or friends. A big part of the kindergarten experience requires that children know how to relate to others. } Make sure that you're emotionally prepared; it won't be easy to walk away if your child is

crying, but staying will only make the situation more difficult. Simply say goodbye and remind your child that you'll see him or her soon. }

Some suggestions for your child: } Know his/her full name-They are expected to recite their full names -and know how to write their first name. }

Practice fine-motor skills- A typical day in Kindergarten involves cutting, coloring, pasting, tracing, holding a pencil or crayon, etc. Beginning writing depends on these types of skills so be sure to spend some time engaging in these types of activities at home so your child is not frustrated or lagging behind at school. } Function independently- While at school your child will be expected to manage bathroom needs independently, fasten and unfasten simple buttons, put on and take off their coats, etc. Encourage this at home so that they feel confident doing these things for themselves. Tying shoelaces is NOT expected - this is developmental and many children do not learn this until 1st grade or so. If your child does not know how to tie their own shoes it would be wise to use shoes or sneakers with Velcro or straps. It becomes tedious and tiring for a teacher to tie children's shoelaces all day long. }

Use good social skills- Much of Kindergarten involves working and getting along with others. Your child should be able feel comfortable doing this. Help your child refine essential social skills such as turn-taking, sharing, compromising and problem-solving. } Recognize basic letters and numbers- Though they are not expected to know all the letters of the alphabet going into Kindergarten, they should know the letters in their name and as many of the other letters as possible. Children are expected to be able to count from at least 1-10 and be able to recognize these numbers as well as know some basic shapes and colors. }

Sit and listen to a story without interrupting- In Kindergarten children must be able to concentrate on what the teacher is saying, listen and follow simple directions, etc. The best way to prepare children for this is to sit and read with them and encourage them to focus on the story. This fosters retention and understanding. To encourage them to be able to follow simple commands - practice at home. Give your child simple 2 or 3 step

directions such as - pick up the toy from the floor, put it into the toy box and close the lid. This will prepare them for when their teacher asks them to complete work at school }

Your partner in teaching,

Mrs. Gecek