

## How You Can Help

Your **attitude** toward school will be reflected in your child. Children will look forward to kindergarten with pleasure if they are told of the pleasant and interesting things that go on there and the many new friends they will make.

**Parent involvement** is essential for an effective educational program. As a parent, get acquainted with your child's school and teacher. Attend parent meetings at the school. If you are willing to help in the classroom or at school, please contact the teacher or your school's Volunteer Coordinator.

The **papers** your child brings home are very important. Be sure to look over the work and make some positive comments. A little praise will work wonders and increase self-motivation. Children gain in both skill and confidence through sharing their experiences.

Teach your child to be **independent**. Kindergarten children need to be able to button, zip, tie shoes, and put on coats, hats, gloves, and boots. Help your child to learn **healthy home habits** that carry over to school, such as:

- putting away toys and other belongings
- listening to others and following directions
- helping and caring for others, including pets
- having regular routines including **limiting television to certain scheduled programs**, and regular times for going to bed, getting up, and mealtimes



## Parent Conferences

Parent conferences, usually scheduled at the end of October, are scheduled so that the teacher can meet with each parent to discuss each child's progress in kindergarten. Individual conferences may be arranged with the teacher at any time. Report cards are sent home in early February and on the last day of school.

**A**s a parent, you have been your child's most important teacher. As your student starts a more formal schooling experience, our caring and competent staff will join you in partnership to provide the best education possible for your student. We have designed this brochure to help you through the registration process, answer some frequently asked questions, and provide you with ways to prepare your child for the many kindergarten activities in which children participate. We look forward to working with you as we begin this important home-school partnership.

Nick J. Brossoit  
Superintendent

*We believe...* in the unique worth and talents of each child.

*So we provide...* an environment that celebrates their diversity and fosters a positive self concept, helping each child reach his or her full potential.



*We believe...* children learn best when activities and materials are concrete and relevant to their lives.

*So we provide...* hands on, appropriate experiences that integrate social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development.



*We believe...* the aim of kindergarten is to provide a basic foundation for your child's education.

*So we provide...* a safe and nurturing program geared to make a smooth transition from home to school for our students.



# Off we go to Kindergarten!



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# Kindergarten Programs

Our Full Day and Part Day Kindergarten programs offer a welcoming, supportive start to school in an active learning environment. Instruction is based on the Edmonds School District Curriculum Frameworks and is designed to prepare students for first grade. All kindergarten students participate in library, music, and physical education classes.

**Part Day Kindergarten** (state-funded program): Students attend school five days a week in either a morning (AM) or afternoon (PM) session. If your school offers both an AM and PM class, placement is based on your home address within your school's boundaries. Mid-day transportation to or from school is available.

**Full Day Kindergarten** (funded in part by parent-paid tuition): Students attend school five days a week the same hours as students in grades one through six. Please see the insert for the amount of tuition or how to apply for financial aid.

## Help Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Here are suggestions for having fun and learning together: spend time together; go places and *talk* about those experiences; read to your child; play simple games (like hide and seek, board games, or catch); practice sharing and taking turns.

### ► Math

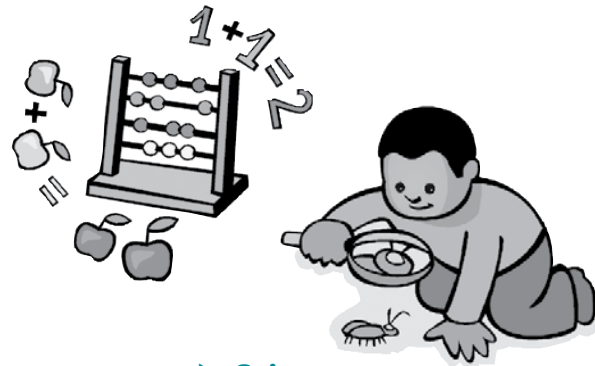
When children count, solve problems, compare objects, and recognize shapes and patterns, they are using math to make sense of numbers in their everyday lives.

- Count all the steps in your house
- Sort objects by color, shape, and size
- Cook together using an easy recipe
- Go on a shape hunt outside
- Find numbers in magazines
- Practice counting to 10

### ► Large Motor Skills

Developing large muscle control enables children to be physically fit and to be able to run and play with others.

- Throw bean bags into hoops
- Play Red Light, Green Light
- Set up an obstacle course with buckets and cones for children to run around
- Play catch with a ball and milk cartons
- Pretend to fly, crawl, run, and move like certain animals



### ► Science

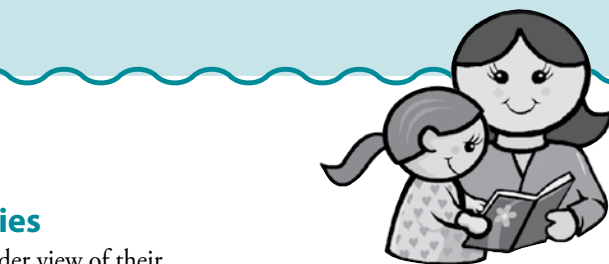
Children develop a beginning understanding of science by asking questions and making observations about their world.

- Visit places that have plants and animals
- Play with bubbles
- Mix paints or colored water to make new colors
- Experiment with mirrors
- Observe shells, sea life, and rocks at the beach

### ► Social Studies

Children gain a broader view of their world as they learn about self, family, community, and cultural traditions.

- Make a map of your house or neighborhood together
- Walk around the block noticing what's new and different
- Visit an outdoor fruit and vegetable stand
- Look at family photos
- Find magazine pictures of people showing various emotions



### ► Language & Literacy:

Language is developed by listening and communicating with others. Singing, rhyming, reading together, and playing with letter sounds set the foundation for literacy.

- Read a variety of books to your child every day
- Play I Spy—describe objects you see in the room
- Sing songs while riding in the car
- Make stick puppets and tell a story
- Talk about your feelings and interests
- Visit the library



### Transportation

Those eligible for bus transportation will be sent a bus pass by the third week of August if registration occurs by the middle of August. Students registering after the middle of August will receive a bus pass from school.

### Orientation

When you register, please check with your school about orientation. It is important to register early so you can be part of the essential kindergarten orientation at your child's school. Some schools hold their kindergarten orientation early in the spring.

### Supplies

Check with the school office before shopping for school supplies.

### Attendance

Your child's attitude towards school begins in Kindergarten. Being on time to school and attending regularly will set the foundation for learning and positive school experiences. Kindergartners thrive on routines. Children have a much better day when they can participate in all activities. Please help your child arrive on time. If your child is going to be absent, please call the school. A written note is required if your child will go home a different way than his/her normal routine.

### Lunch

Children in full day kindergarten will eat lunch at school. Students may bring a lunch from home or buy a school lunch. If you believe you are eligible for free or reduced lunch cost, please complete and turn in the required form from your school.

### Developmental Concerns

If you have concerns about your child's development and/or readiness for Kindergarten, contact the Edmonds School District Childfind at 425-431-7208. Early detection and intervention increases children's chances of school success.

### ► Fine Motor Skills:

Opportunities to develop small muscle coordination help children as they learn to use a variety of tools to cut, draw, write, and tie.

- Paint on the sidewalk or house with a brush and water
- Make pipe cleaner sculptures
- Finger paint
- Make a collage with torn paper
- Play with playdough
- Use scissors to cut straight lines and curves
- Open and close lunch box and containers
- Practice writing your name using a capital letter at the beginning and the rest lower case
- Use crayons to draw and color



### ► Self-Help Skills:

Self-help skills are necessary in order for children to be independent, healthy, and safe in their everyday lives.

- Teach children to dress independently
- Give your child simple chores
- Teach names of relatives and neighbors
- Teach thorough hand washing
- Develop a routine for picking up belongings
- Practice putting on coat

