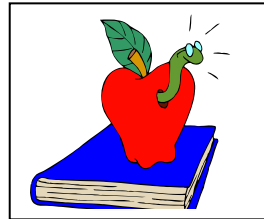


Writing is a means of communication. In kindergarten writing comes from a story or a picture. The process of becoming a writer is guided in kindergarten.

- writing their first and last names correctly
- using the correct spelling of known words
- holding a pencil correctly
- forming letters properly
- using appropriate spacing for letters and words
- using writing as a means of communication
- demonstrating risk taking behaviors
- using correct punctuation and capitalization
- writing a sentence that is a complete thought
- using a variety of forms of writing
- illustrating a story
- contributing to group stories
- dictating a story



- contributing to class discussions
- **Literature** may be used for enjoyment, information or appreciating the world around us.
- enjoying a variety of literature
- respecting all materials
- responding to literature through art, drama, discussion, music or a project
- demonstrating a familiarity with fiction, nonfiction, poetry, fairy tales, humor, nursery rhymes and informational text



Your child's kindergarten experience is the foundation for his or her education. Basic skills need to be mastered but there also needs to be a love of learning, a belief in him or herself as a learner and a willingness to take a risk when encountering the unknown.

You can help as a parent by asking your child about his or her day. Reading with your child daily is important. Talking with your child helps to build language skills and models the different ways to communicate.

English Language use is the ability to communicate effectively to a variety of audiences.

- listening and responding to directions
- asking questions
- respecting a speaker through listening appropriately
- expressing needs appropriately

Ask your teacher when you have questions or concerns. We appreciate your willingness to be involved and are happy to provide needed information.



A Parent's Guide to the...

Kindergarten

Elementary Language Arts Curriculum



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Learning to read and write is critical to student success. We welcome you as a partner in your child's learning.

This guide will identify the major skills your child will be learning this year. Other skills/strategies will be taught but are not assessed.



Reading:

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and identify individual sounds and phonemes in words. This skill is critical should be learned in kindergarten.

- recognizing sounds in words
- blending sounds to make a word
- recognizing words when sounds are added or removed

Phonics is the understanding of the relationship between sounds and letters.

- hearing syllables
- identify sounds in initial, medial and final positions
- onset and rime ~ part= /p/ art
- recognizing letters and their sounds and hearing sounds and identifying letters

Early reading concepts are the foundation to learning to read.

- recognizing and producing rhymes
- understanding a word vs. a letter
- recognizing and naming all upper and lower case letters
- understanding that words are arranged from left to right and top to bottom in print



Word recognition and vocabulary skills help the reader to work with words.

- reading and using print they see daily
- basic vocabulary which can be read by sight
- sorting words/pictures according to category
- basic concept words – over, under etc.
- taking risks with unknown words

Word strategies are the tools the student uses to identify words and make meaning from their reading.

- using a picture to identify unknown words
- using the meaning of a sentence to identify unknown words
- using the structure of a sentence to identify an unknown word
- identifying similar and opposite meanings in pictures to connect words



Concepts about print help children to bring basic word understandings to text.

- key parts of a book (front, back, title, author, illustrator
- left to right page and line directionality
- moving to a second line of text
- matching the words read with the text
- locating known and unknown words
- identifying the first and last part of words and of sentences

At all times, students should be encouraged to try when encountering difficulty. When working at home, one good attempt is sufficient.

Comprehension is the goal of all reading. Students need to understand what they have read and be able to recall information.

- participating in read aloud activities
- creating mental images of what is read
- identifying characters and some traits
- retelling a story with prompting
- noticing when their reading doesn't make sense
- responding orally to questions
- making connections between what students know and what they are learning
- predicting what will happen in a story
- drawing conclusions from text read
- sequencing story events
- identifying text as fiction/nonfiction
- gathering information from nonfiction text

Fluency is important because helps to provide a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. It includes rate, expression and voice.

- practicing with audio tapes, choral reading, partner reading, drama
- reading known books fluently

Enjoyment of reading is the key to becoming a reader. Read daily with your child and talk about favorite books. Nursery rhymes are also helpful in listening to and using language.

Some good authors for kindergarten are Bill Martin, Jr., Donald Crews, Eric Hill and Lois Ehlert.

