

Dear Parents,

Soon your child will begin Kindergarten. Here are a few tips for you to do over the summer to help your child be prepared for school. To get your child academically ready for school, you should:

- Read to your child daily and talk about what you've read.
- Visit the library. Check out books and attend story times.
- Sing rhyming songs and do finger plays.
- Help your child to recognize their name in print and encourage your child to write his or her name.
- Give your child puzzles and games that require counting and problem solving.
- Let your child color, draw, write, and cut and paste.
- Sing the alphabet song with your child and provide letter magnets or other toys that will help him/her begin to recognize the letters of the alphabet.
- Take your child to the zoo, park, grocery store, post office, and pet shop. Talk about the sights and sounds of your day.
- Make time for your child to sing, dance, climb, jump, run, and ride tricycles or bikes.

Social readiness is as important as academic readiness. Being able to get along with other children, follow directions, take turns, and say "good-bye" to parents are skills that kindergarten teachers hope to see from incoming children. To get your child socially ready for school, you should:

- Set rules and give consequences for breaking them.
- Have regular routines for mealtime and bedtime.
- Encourage your child to play with and talk to other children.
- Encourage your child to take turns and share with other children.
- Encourage your child to finish difficult or frustrating tasks once they have begun them.
- Encourage your child to consider the feelings of others.
- Model and discuss positive ways for your child to express his or her feelings.
- Discourage hitting, biting, screaming, and other negative behaviors.
- Kiss and hug your child several times a day.

Listening and speaking are the first steps to reading and writing. Through conversations with parents and friends, children learn about the people, places, and objects that they will later read and write about. It is through speaking that young children tell us what they know and understand about the world. To make sure that your child can communicate his or her thoughts and feelings in school, you should:

- Have regular conversations with your child.
- Encourage your child to listen and respond to others when they speak.
- Answer your child's questions, even if the answer is "no."
- Help your child learn and use new words.
- Explore language through singing, rhyming, songs, and chants.
- Model the language you want your child to use.

I am looking forward to meeting you and your child in September.

Mrs. Burfeind  
Kindergarten Teacher